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NO. 1

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ABRAHAM LINCOLN

LIFE STORY





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THE LINCOLN CABIN

The frontier molded him in its image. As a boy, he helped carve a homestead out of the primeval forest. He learned to live with hunger and cold while his broad-axe pushed the frontier westward. The wilderness taught him courage and self-reliance. At nineteen, he sailed down the mighty Mississippi in a flatboat built with his own hands.

Pioneer, boatman, rail-splitter, storekeeper and lawyer — he came to manhood a rough-hewn giant with the love of his land and his people fused into his very bone and sinew.

America shaped Abraham Lincoln and it fell to Lincoln to reshape America — for ahead of him lay an appointment with destiny.

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BOYHOOD



THE TWELFTH OF JUNE, 1806, SAW MEN AND WOMEN IN HOLIDAY MOOD ARRIVING ON HORSEBACK FOR THE WEDDING OF YOUNG THOMAS LINCOLN AND DARK-HAIRED NANCY HANKS.



THE GROOM, TWENTY-EIGHT YEARS OLD, A BIT NERVOUS AND FLUSHED WITH THE EXCITEMENT OF THE OCCASION, WORE HIS NEW BLACK SUIT, SILK SUSPENDERS AND BEAVER HAT.



NANCY, THE BRIDE, A SERIOUS GIRL OF TWENTY-TWO, TALL, DARK AND SLENDER, WORE LINEN AND SILK WITH A DASH OF SCARLET WHICH BROUGHT OUT THE COLOR IN HER CHEEKS.



THE SIX NEGRO SLAVES OWNED BY THE YOUNG COUPLE'S HOST, RICHARD BERRY, WERE BUSY GETTING READY THE FOOD AND "FIXIN'S" WHICH WERE TO FOLLOW THE WEDDING CEREMONY.



SOON THE TABLE BEGAN TO GROAN UNDER A WEALTH OF "INFARE"-- BEAR MEAT AND VENISON, WILD TURKEY AND DUCKS, EGGS, MAPLE SUGAR LUMPS, AND BARBECUED MUTTON.



THE GREAT MOMENT CAME AT LAST, THOMAS AND NANCY WERE "JOINED TOGETHER IN THE HOLY ESTATE OF MATRIMONY, AGREEABLE TO THE RITES ... OF THE METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH."



THE OFFICIATING MINISTER WAS A MAN THEY HONORED -- AND RHYMED ABOUT: "HIS NOSE IS LONG AND HIS HAIR IS RED, AND HE GOES BY THE NAME OF JESSE HEAD."



THE WEDDING FEAST WAS LONG TO BE REMEMBERED! THE MEATS WERE DONE TO A TURN; BIG GOURDS FULL OF PEACH SYRUP AND HONEY WERE PASSED TO SWEETEN THE FRESH, HOT BREAD!



AFTER THE FEASTING AND THE JOLLITY WERE OVER, THOMAS PUT HIS BRIDE ON A HORSE AND THEY RODE AWAY ON THE RED CLAY ROAD ALONG THE TIMBER TRAILS TO ELIZABETHTOWN.



THERE THEY MADE THEIR FIRST HOME IN A LOG CABIN CLOSE TO THE COUNTY COURTHOUSE; AND THERE NANCY LINCOLN WAS HAPPY DESPITE THE HARD DRUDGERY OF PIONEER HOUSEKEEPING.



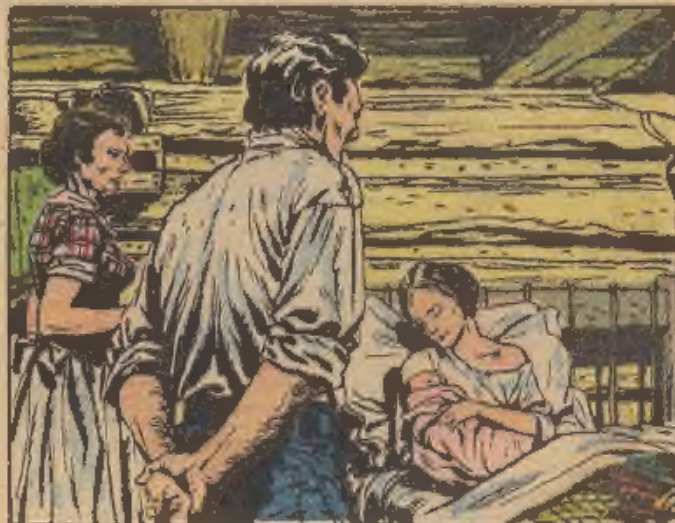
HER HUSBAND WORKED AS A CARPENTER, MADE CABINETS, DOOR FRAMES, WINDOW SASH, AND AN OCCASIONAL COFFIN... A CHILD'S COFFIN COST THREE DOLLARS, A WOMAN'S SIX, A MAN'S SEVEN.



ONE SUMMER DAY NANCY HAD THE DEEP HAPPINESS OF SHARING WITH HER HUSBAND THE NEWS---THAT A BABY WAS ON THE WAY! IT WAS A SOLEMN MOMENT ALIGHT WITH PRAYERFUL HOPES.



PERHAPS BECAUSE OF THIS, THEY RODE OUT MORE OFTEN TO THE LITTLE MOUNT BAPTIST CHURCH WHERE THEY WERE MEMBERS AND SPOKE PRAYERS OF HOPE FOR THE CHILD TO COME.



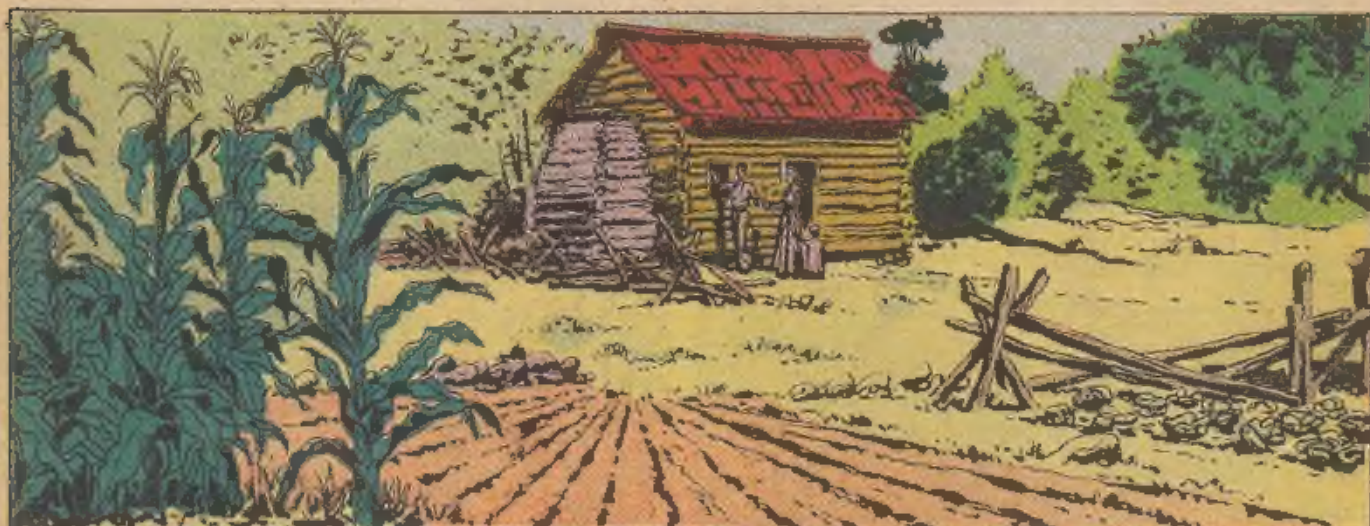
IN FEBRUARY, 1807, THE CHILD CAME, AND THEY NAMED HER SARAH. NANCY WASHED AND NURSED HER BABY, MADE HER WISHES AND PRAYERS FOR THE LITTLE ONE, WHILE TOM DID WHAT HE COULD.



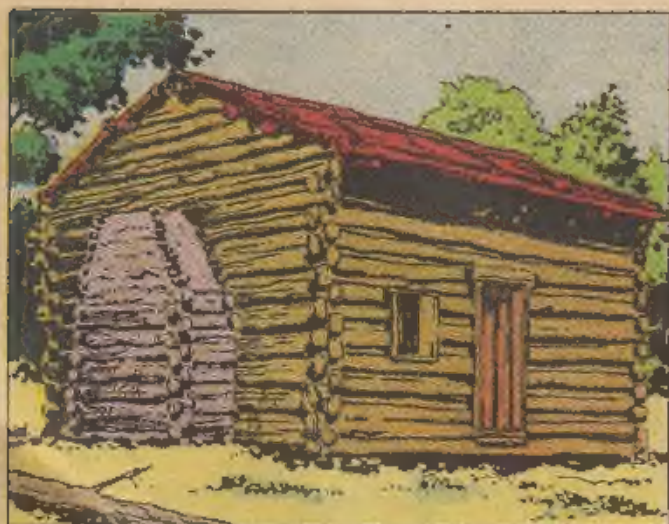
NANCY WAS "A READY READER..." WITH ALL THE CARRYING OF WOOD AND WATER, THE COOKING AND SCRUBBING, SHE FOUND TIME TO READ HER BIBLE FOR INSPIRATION AND STRENGTH.



AS SHE WORKED, SHE THOUGHT--- AND SOMETIMES SANG--- OF THE HEAVEN BEYOND THIS EVERYDAY LABOR--- AS HER BIBLE TAUGHT.



NEXT YEAR, TOM BUILT A NEW CABIN. HIS THRIVING GARDEN WAS CLOSE TO IT... HEAVEN AND EARTH WERE SMILING ON HIS LITTLE FAMILY IN THAT YEAR EIGHTEEN HUNDRED AND EIGHT.



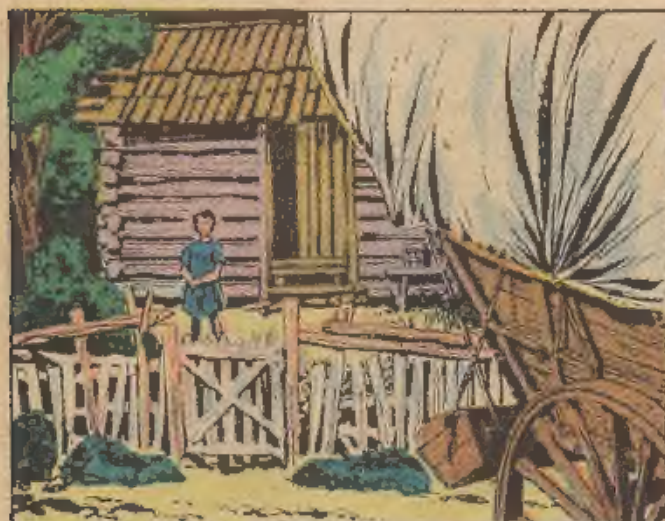
THE FLOOR WAS HARD-RAMMED EARTH... THE DOOR HAD LEATHER HINGES... THE WINDOW WAS SMALL AND INNOCENT OF GLASS... THE CHIMNEY WAS CLAY, REINFORCED WITH STICKS.



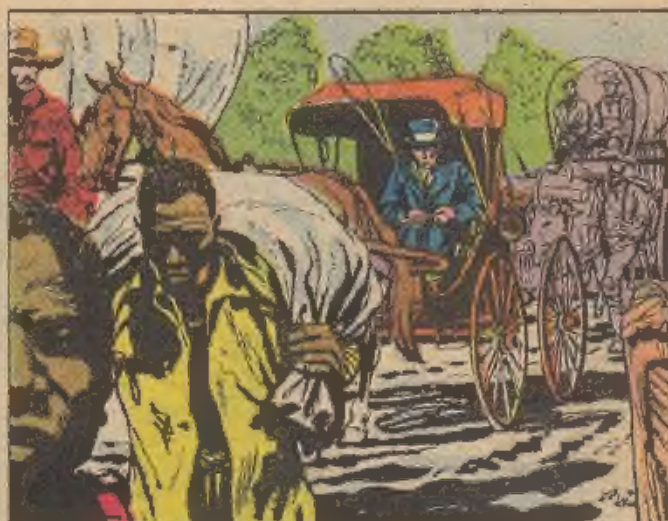
ON FEBRUARY 12TH, 1809, IN THIS CABIN, TOM AND NANCY LINCOLN'S SECOND CHILD WAS WELCOMED INTO THE WORLD. WHEN DENNIS THE NEIGHBOR BOY ASKED HIS NAME, NANCY REPLIED: "ABRAHAM!"



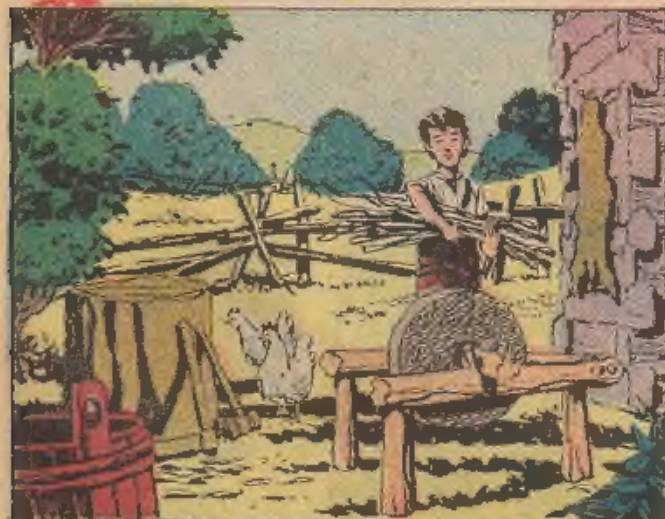
TWO YEARS LATER, TOM LINCOLN WAS ON THE MOVE AGAIN---TEN MILES TO A FARM ON KNOB CREEK WHERE THE SOIL WAS BETTER AND NEIGHBORS NOT SO FAR BETWEEN. THERE HE BUILT ANOTHER CABIN.



HERE, LITTLE ABE OUTGREW HIS BABY CLOTHES AND BABY WAYS. THERE WAS MUCH FOR A LITTLE BOY TO SEE, FOR THE NEW CABIN STOOD CLOSE TO THE CUMBERLAND TRAIL, THE MAIN ROAD TO NASHVILLE.



ALONG THE FAMOUS PIKE MOVED CONSTANTLY A VARIED TRAFFIC: PEDDLERS AND CONGRESSMEN, GANGS OF SLAVES FOLLOWED BY A TRADER OR OVERSEER, OX-DRAWN VEHICLES AND FINE CARRIAGES.



AS ABE GREW BIGGER, HE TOOK OVER THE LIGHTER HOUSEHOLD CHORES... HE RAN ERRANDS, CARRIED WATER, KEPT THE WOOD-BOX FILLED, CLEANED ASHES OUT OF THE FIREPLACE AND HELPED OUTSIDE.



VERY EARLY IN LIFE, ABE LINCOLN LEARNED THE USE OF A HOE. FOLLOWING IN HIS FATHER'S STEPS, HE WORKED DOWN THE LONG ROWS OF BEANS AND CORN, POTATOES AND ONIONS.



ABE LINCOLN REMEMBERED IT ALL HIS LIFE--- THAT FARM HOME AT KNOB CREEK WITH THE TOWERING, WOODED HILLS AND DEEP RAVINES HEMMING IT ALL AROUND---A HOME A BOY'S HEART COULD LOVE!



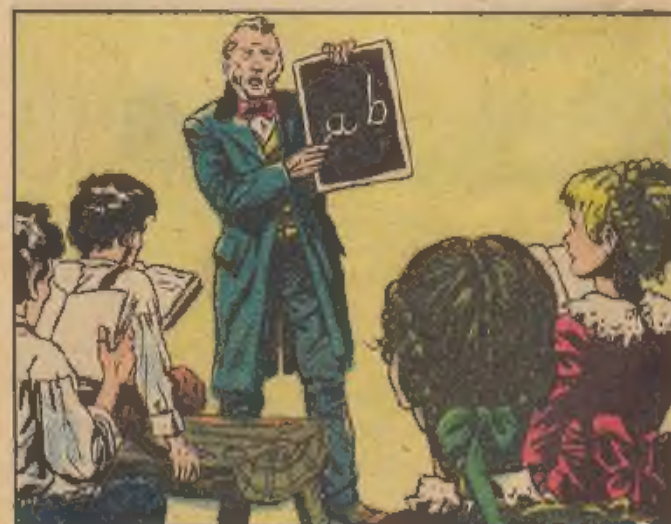
LATER, ABE RECALLED HOW ONE SATURDAY HE FOLLOWED OTHER BOYS PLANTING CORN IN THE "BIG FIELD." ABE DROPPED PUMPKIN SEEDS EVERY OTHER "HILL" AND EVERY OTHER ROW.



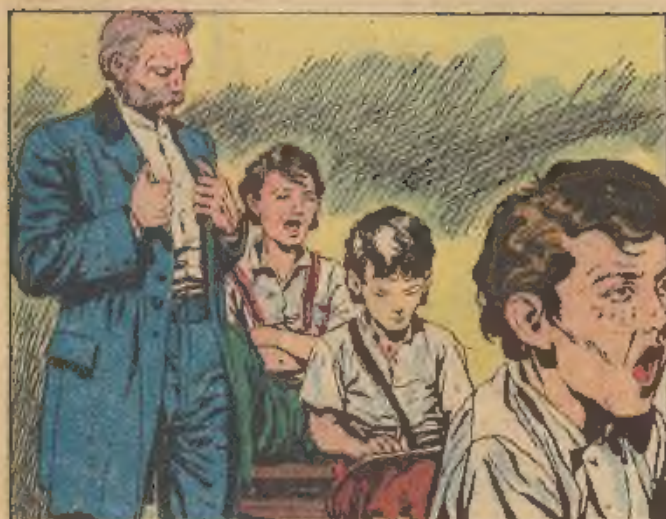
THE NEXT DAY A HARD RAIN FELL ON THE HILLS---NONE IN THE VALLEY. BUT A FLASH FLOOD TORE DOWN THROUGH THE RAVINES AND WASHED OUT EVERY BIT OF THE NEW SEEDING!



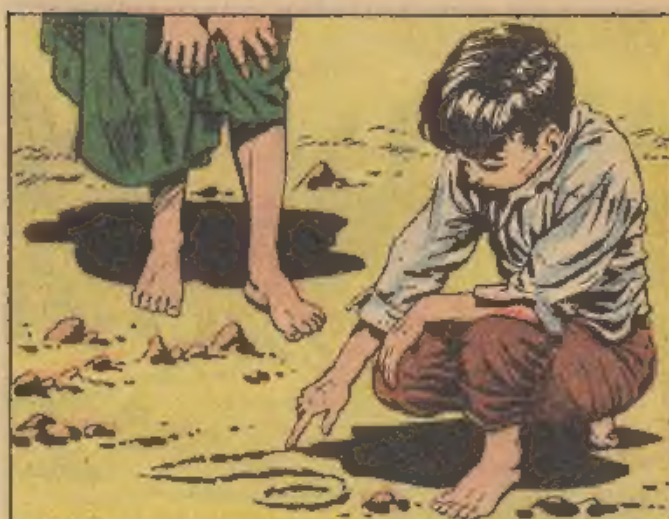
THERE WAS SCHOOLING AS WELL AS WORK FOR LITTLE ABE AND HIS SISTER... BARE FOOT, THEY TRUDGED FOUR MILES EACH DAY TO ATTEND THE ONE-ROOM, DIRT-FLOORED LOG SCHOOL.



IT WAS CALLED A "BLAB SCHOOL" BECAUSE THE CHILDREN STUDIED "OUT LOUD"; THUS ASSURING THE TEACHER THAT THEY WERE AT WORK... THEY LEARNED THE ALPHABET AND NUMBERS ONE TO TEN.



THEIR TEACHERS WERE AS CRUDE AS THEIR SCHOOL-
HOUSE — ONE HAD BEEN A TAVERN KEEPER — BUT
THEY TAUGHT YOUNG ABE LINCOLN TO LOVE FORM-
ING LETTERS AND SHAPING WORDS.



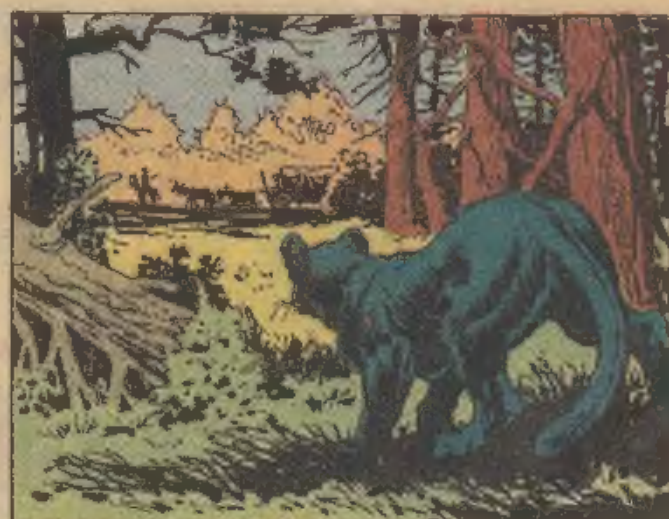
IT WAS A LOVE WHICH LASTED THE REST OF HIS LIFE!
MATERIALS WERE HIS FINGER AND THE DUST OF THE
YARD --- OR A BIT OF BURNED WOOD AND A SMOOTH
SHAVED CHIP --- OR THE SMOOTHNESS OF NEW SNOW.



IN THE LATE FALL OF 1816, THE LINCOLNS MOVED AGAIN. THIS TIME THEY CROSSED THE OHIO INTO INDIANA,
TRAVELING WITH ALL THEIR POSSESSIONS, AND THE BRIGHT HOPE OF ALL PIONEERS.



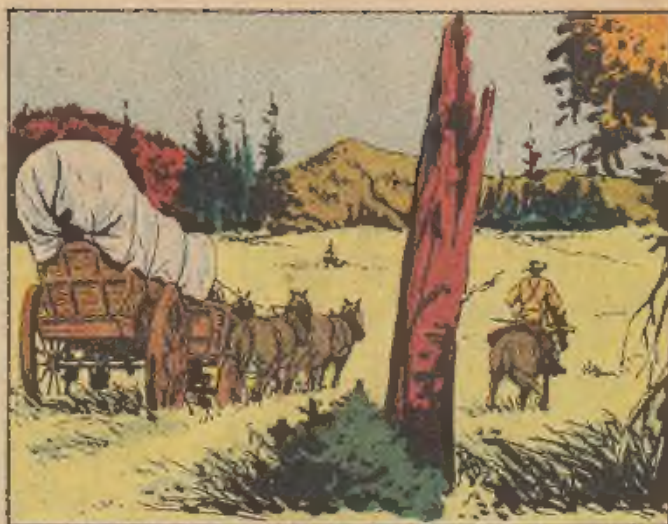
THE COUNTRY WAS WILD --- ALMOST ENTIRELY UNSET-
TLED, WITH NO ROADS BUT AN OCCASIONAL WHEEL
TRACK, BLOCKED BY WIND-FALLEN TREES! WITH ABE'S
HELP, TOM CHOPPED THE WAY CLEAR.



IT WAS THE LAND OF LONESOMENESS! THE BEAR'S
"WHOOF!" AND THE WOLF'S HOWL AND THE PANTHER'S
WEIRD SCREAM ECHOED THE MOURNFUL HOOTING OF
THE OWL! A LAND OF PROMISE, AND OF FEAR.



THE LINCOLNS AND THEIR FOUR-HORSE TEAM TOILED THROUGH THIS WILDERNESS TO LITTLE PIGEON CREEK, ABOUT SIXTEEN MILES FROM THE OHIO. THEY WERE LOOKING FOR LAND PARTLY CLEARED BY NATURE.



HERE, NOT FAR FROM THE CREEK, THEY FOUND IT--- PARTLY OPENED GROUND WHERE WILD GRASS GREW THICKLY ON A RISE. AND THE BREEZES REACHED THROUGH THE TREES! THEIR NEW HOMESITE!



FOR A TEMPORARY SHELTER THEY CUT MANY POLES. LITTLE ABE CHOPPED THEM INTO LENGTHS WHILE HIS FATHER DUG THE NECESSARY POST HOLES. EVERYBODY HELPED.



SARAH AND HER MOTHER DRAGGED MORE POLES FOR THE WALLS AND BOUGHS FOR THE ROOF. THE SHELTER, A "HALF-FACED CAMP," WAS TO HAVE ITS HIGHEST SIDE OPEN, THE ROOF SLOPED BACK.



WITHIN A VERY SHORT TIME THE CAMP WAS FINISHED. THE LOG FIRE IN FRONT OF IT RADIATED HEAT INSIDE AND SERVED AS A KITCHEN. THE THREE FLIMSY WALLS KEPT OUT MOST OF THE WIND.



WATER WAS FOR THEM FLOWLED ON THE MOUNTAINS
IN THE MOUNTAINS IN THE MOUNTAINS IN THE
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NEIGHBORS HELPED TOM LINCOLN LAY UP THE LOG
WALLS OF HIS CARN--AND THE EARTH SATE WAS
SELTOM DURING THE WEEKS OF BUILDING THE
EIGHTEEN BY TWENTY FOOT STRUCTURE



THE STICK AND MOUNTAIN WAS AS MUCH AS
THE WALL--AND CAPE JULY--IT WOULD SERVE
FOR MANY YEARS AT THE MOUNTAIN--A CLAY
ROCK--A WATTLE--AND A PROOF



THE WHOLE FAMILY WORKED AT SHAPING THE LOG
WALLS WITH A WATTLE AND DALE MORTAR MADE
OF CLAY AND GRASS--WHEN FINISHED IT WOULD
BE SNUG AND WARM WITH A LOFT OVERHEAD



ONE DAY BEFORE THE WALL--CLAY--WAS COMPLETED
A NUMBER OF ADIRONDACKS ENTERED THE CARN--
AND THE CLAY--CARN--TOM--WAS ON THE
BUSINESS--THE YARD WAS EMPTY--



AT THE TEMPORARY MAN OF THE AMOUNT--LEASE
TOOK DOWN HIS FATHERS--REFLECTION--AND SIGHT
THAT--A BROTHER--FRESH MEAT WAS IMPORTANT
IN THE LINCOLN HOUSEHOLD--



AT THE SCAMMING REPORT, ABE'S FEATHERED TARGET FLOPPED OVER DEAD. AND THE REST OF THE FLOCK TOOK OFF WITH LOUD YELPS OF DISMAY TOWARD THE NEARBY FOREST.



LITTLE ABE RAN OUT TO HIS KILL, FROG AS HE GAZED AT THE THING WHICH HAD BEEN A FROG AND SOME BIRD ONLY MOVEMENTS TO SEE THE TRAIL OF THE HUNTER LEFT THEM FOREVER.



PIONEER LIFE'S MOSTLY HARD WORK FOR SMALL MATERIAL RETURNS. THE LINCOLNS FOUND THIS YEAR NOT DIFFERENT. THEY CUT TREES, PILED BRUSH AND SKINNED IT, GRUBBED UP TOUGH ROOTS



THERE WERE MANY SMALL FORTS AND HARBORS AS HE FOLLOWED BEHIND HIS FATHER'S PLOW, BREAKING THE NEWLY-CLEARED LAND ONLY THIS COULD THE GROUND BE PLANTED AND CROPS RAISED.



NOW AND THEN I MIGHT GO OFF TO HUNT BEAR TIPS, WILD EGGS, DUCKS AND TURKEYS SUPPLIED THE MEAT FOR THE PIONEER'S TABLE. PARK AND REEF WERE TOO EXPENSIVE.



AN ARCADE OF WINDS AND A DARKENING OF HEAVEN BY THE FLIGHT OF COUNTLESS PASSENGER PIGEONS WAS NOT UNCOMMON IN THE AT LITTLE PIONEER. THE WEIGHT OF NESTING BIRDS BROKE TREES.



GEESSE AND DUCKS SUPPLIED BOTH MEAT AND FAT FOR FRYING. PINE KNOTS AND FIRE LOGS GAVE LIGHT FOR THE CABIN'S INTERIOR WHILE NUTS WERE ROASTING AND TOMORROW'S WORK WAS TALKED OVER.



ALL SUMMER AND FALL ABE AND HIS SISTER RAN BAREFOOT, FORAGING THE WOODS FOR WILD FRUIT AND GATHERING NUTS IN SEASON BEFORE THE SQUIRRELS COULD HIDE THEM ALL.



SOMETIMES THEY FOUND A HONEYCREEPER TREE WHICH Housed A TREASURE OF HONEYCOMB. THEN THE CHILDREN HAD THE ADVENTURE OF WATCHING TOM SMOKE OUT THE BEES AND CHOP DOWN THEIR STOREHOUSE.



PERHAPS THEIR MOST TIRESOME CHORE WAS CARRYING DRINKING WATER FROM THE SPRING A MILE AWAY. TOM LINCOLN HAD NOT PLANNED IT THAT WAY--- BUT EVERY WELL HE DUG WENT DRY.



THE LINCOLNS AND THEIR FIRST NEIGHBORS WERE THE ADVANCE GUARD OF A MIGHTY PIONEER MOVEMENT WHICH PUSHED WESTWARD INTO THE WILDERNESS. THEY CAME THROUGH THE MOUNTAINS.



---OR THEY LAUNCHED OUT ON THE OHIO RIVER IN EVERYTHING FROM RAFTS TO PADDLEWHEEL STEAMBOATS, CARRYING ALL THE RIVERWORLDLY GOODS---THE FERTILE SEED OF A GREAT NATION.



FOLLOWING THE RUTTED WAGON TRACKS, BY THE GRIM
 DUSK, HANKS OF THOSE WHO IN THE WILDERNESS
 HAD CONSIDERED THE BONES OF MEN AND ANIMALS
 THE BROKEN AND ABANDONED THINGS



IN THE AUTUMN OF 1877 TOM AND BETSY SPARROW AND
 SEVENTEEN YEAR OLD DENNIS HANKS, CLOSE NEIGH-
 BERS AND FRIENDS FROM KENTUCKY, DROVE INTO
 THE LINCOLN DOORYARD



THE HARBOR WAS WHERE HE HAD ANYTHING THAT HAD HAPPENED IN THE WHOLE PAST YEAR ESPE-
 CIALY TO NANCY LIVES TIME FOR THE COMPANIONSHIP OF ANOTHER WOMAN THERE WAS SOMETHING TO TELL
 AND WORK SEEMED TO HOKE IN THEIR BRIGADES THE TIME FOR ALK WOULD COME LATER, BY THE EVEN-
 ING HE WENT ON IN THE PASSES BETWEEN CHORES



DENNIS HANKS SEEMED NEVER AT LOSS FOR WORDS
 HOWEVER HE REMEMBERED HOLDING LITTLE ABON
 THE DAY HE WAS BORN AND PREDICTING THAT THE
 YOUNGESTER WOULD NEVER COME TO MUCH



GLADLY TOM AND BETSY SPARROW ACCEPTED TOM
 LINCOLN'S OFFER OF THE HALF FENCED CAMP OF
 POLES TO LIVE IN UNTIL THEY WERE SETTLED ON
 LAND OF THE TOWN IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD



THE SPARROWS DREAM OF A NEW HOME NEVER CAME TRUE. LESS THAN A YEAR AFTER THEIR ARRIVAL THEY WERE SEIZED WITH THE FEVER AND INWARD PAINS OF THE THING CALLED "MELANCHOLY."



THE SUMMER WAS JUST OVER WHEN TOM AND BETTY SPARROW WERE LAID TO REST IN A LITTLE HILLTOP CLEARING NEAR THE LINCOLN HOMESTEAD. THEIR PASSING LEFT AN EMPTINESS AND A FOREBODING.



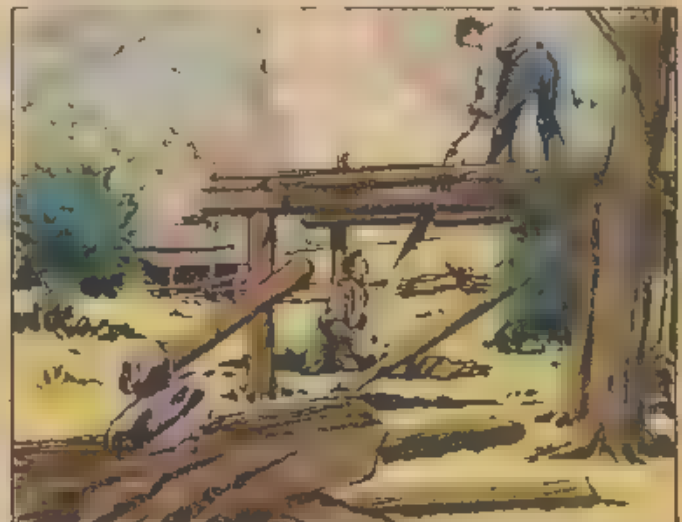
NOT LONG AFTERWARDS NANCY LINCOLN FELT THE SAME DIVINIC PAINS AND WEAKNESS WITH LOSS OF APPETITE, OF WHICH THE SPARROWS HAD COMPLAINED. HOUSEWORK BECAME TOO MUCH FOR HER.



THE WHITE COATING ON HER TONGUE TURNED BROWN. LATER HER BODY GREW COLDER AND COLDER. KNOWING THE END MUST BE NEAR, SHE CALLED TOM, ABE AND SARAH, BIDDING THEM GOOD-BYE.



SOON THE COURAGEOUS WIFE AND MOTHER WAS GONE, TO THAT BEYOND OF WHICH SHE HAD READ AND SUNG, AND FOR WHICH SHE HAD LIVED. SHE WAS ONLY THIRTY-FOUR.



TOM LINCOLN AND DENNIS HANKS SAWED BOARD OUT OF A LOG WITH A WHIPSAW, TO MAKE THE COFFIN. LATER TOM PLANED THEM SMOOTH, AS HE HAD DONE FOR SO MANY OTHER COFFINS.



DENN SHANKS HELPED IN THE SAD TASK, HOLDING THE BOARDS FOR TOM TO BORE WITH HIS GIMLET. THEY WORKED WITHOUT STOPPING, BUT IT TOOK SO LONG, SO LONG!



LITTLE ABE HAD HIS JOB, TOO. WHITING WHITE PINEWOOD PEGS TO FIT THE HOLDS HIS FATHER WAS BORING IN THE BACKWOODS NAILS AND SCREWS WERE PRACTICALLY UNKNOWN.



IT WAS A TINY PROCESSION OF TWO BEWILDERED CHILDREN WHICH FOLLOWED THE IMPARTED BOX OF THE HILL TO THE CEMETERY, WHERE TOM AND BETSY HAD BEEN LAD A FEW WEEKS EARLIER.



THIS SARAH, AGE TWELVE, BECAME THE FAMILY'S COOK AND HOMEMAKER. FOR ONE LONG, HARD YEAR SHE DID HER BEST --- ALONE IN THE CABIN WHILE TOM AND ABE WERE AWAY AT WORK.



YOUNG ABE'S NEW JOB WAS DRIVING A MARE WHO FURNISHED POWER FOR THE SETTLERS' GRIST MILL. THE OLD MARE HATED HER WORK AND WATCHED FOR A CHANCE TO GET EVEN WITH HER DRIVER.



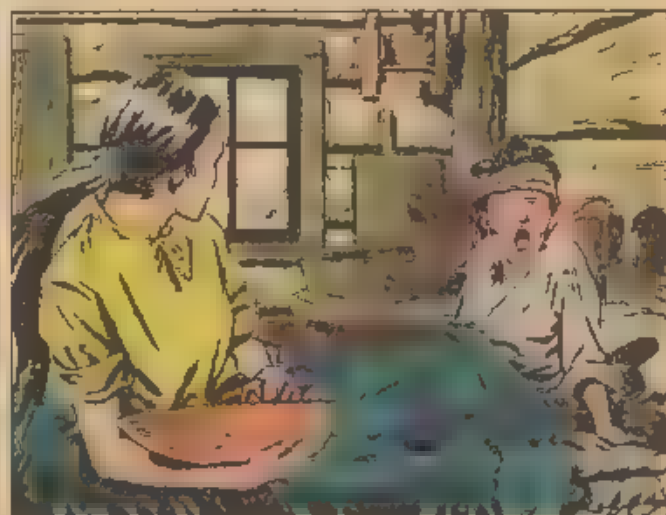
ONCE TO MANY TIMES, LITTLE ABE WIELDED HIS WHIP, AND SHOOKED TO HER "GIT UP YOU OLD HUSSY!" THE NEXT TIME, HE HAD BARELY SAID "GIT UP" WHEN THE MARE LET FLY.



THEY FOUND THE BOY UNCONSCIOUS AND BLOODY. PICKED HIM UP WHILE THE OLD MARE STOOD WATCHING, PROBABLY SATISFIED THAT SHE HAD GOTTEN EVEN FOR THAT ANNOYING WHIPLASH.



THEY CARRIED HIM HOME. AND ALL THAT NIGHT LITTLE ABE LAY LIKE DEATH, KNOWING NOTHING. TOM LINCOLN, WATCHING LATE, WAS ALMOST SURE THAT HIS SMALL SON WAS GOING TO DIE.



THE NEXT MORNING HE STARTLED HIS SISTER BY WAKING WITH A SHOUT "YOU OLD HUSSY!" HIS CONSCIOUSNESS PICKING UP EXACTLY WHERE IT HAD GONE BLANK AFTER SHOUTING "GIT UP--!"



IN NOVEMBER THE LONELINESS AND INCREASED HARD SHIPS OF LIVING IN A WOMANLESS HOUSE GREW TOO MUCH FOR TOM LINCOLN. HITCHING UP HIS WAGON, HE TOLD ABE AND SARAH HE'D BE BACK...



HE DROVE BACK ALONG THE ROUTE HE HAD COME A FEW YEARS BEFORE WITH NANCY AND THE TWO YOUNGSTERS. MEMORIES MUST HAVE HAUNTED HIM, BUT TOM WAS NOT A MAN TO BROOD ON THE PAST.



CROSSING THE OHIO HE DROVE STRAIGHT TO ELIZABETHTOWN KENTUCKY, AND PUT THE WAGON AT THE NEARBY HOME OF A FORMER NEIGHBOR, THE WIDOW SARAH BUSH JOHNSTON AND HER THREE CHILDREN. TOM HAD KNOWN SARAH SINCE THEY WERE GIRL AND BOY.



TOM DISTINCTLY HE PROPOSED MARRIAGE, THEN AND THERE WITH NO ROMANTIC FRILLS. HE ARGUED HE NEEDED A HOME AND HIS NEED OF A WIFE, A THIRTEEN YEAR OLD GIRL.



SARAH HOWEVER, HAD A CLEAR SENSE OF HER OWN MIND WHICH COULD MAKE ITS OWN DECISIONS. SHE LIKED AND TRUSTED TOM LINCOLN. HER ACCEPTANCE WAS QUITE MATTER-OF-FACT.



DECEMBER WAS WELL ALONG WHEN TOM LINCOLN AND HIS BRIDE DROVE UP TO HIS CASHWORTHY HEAVILY LOADED WAGON. THE EXCITEMENT OF LITTLE ABE AND SARAH CAN BE IMAGINED.



TOM INTRODUCED HIS CHILDREN TO NEW MAMMY, AND MOTHER SARAH'S WARM KINDLY SMILE BROKE DOWN ANY STRANGENESS BETWEEN THEM. ABE TRUSTED HER FROM THE FIRST.



MAKING THE TWO SETS OF YOUNGERS FEEL AT HOME WITH ONE ANOTHER CALLED FOR MUCH TALK. THE THREE NEWCOMERS WERE JOHN D. (NINE), MARY LUCY (TEN), AND SARAH ELIZABETH, THIRTEEN.



WIDE-EYED ABE AND HIS SISTER WATCHED THE UNLOADING OF THE WAGON. A WALNUT BUREAU WAS A MARVELOUS THING, AND SO WAS THE FEATHER MATTRESS. THERE WERE A TABLE AND CHAIRS.



LITTLE ABE HAD NEVER BEFORE FELT THE SOFTNESS OF A REAL FEATHER PILLOW. SARAH BUSH, LINCOLN UNDERSTOOD HIS WONDER AND MADE IT ANOTHER BOND BETWEEN THEM.



THEY FOUND THE CABIN HAD TO SERVE AS A LIVING AND SLEEPING QUARTERS FOR FIVE MEN. FROM THEN ON ABE AND HIS SISTER ENJOYED THE LOFT AND LIVED THERE.



UNDER A VERY ENCOURAGING WAY AND WITHOUT NAGGING, MOTHER SARAH PUT HER HUSBAND'S TALENT AS A CARPENTER TO WORK, BUILDING NEW FURNITURE PUTTING IN A WOODEN FLOOR.



AT ELEVEN, YOUNG ABE WAS DOING THE HOUSE AGAIN. TALL FOR HIS AGE, HE WORE THE DEERHIDE PANTS, Moccasins AND BOOTS. NEAR THE SCHOOLHOUSE WAS FOUR MILES AWAY.



HERE AGAIN THE TEACHERS WERE ALWAYS MEN --- WANDERERS WHO USUALLY CAME TO SPEND THE WORST WINTER MONTHS TEACHING THE LITTLE THEY KNEW IN EXCHANGE FOR FOOD AND OTHER "TRADE".



NOTHING WAS TAUGHT BEYOND THE "THREE R'S" --- READING, 'RITING AND 'RITMETIC, BUT HERE YOUNG ABE LEARNED TO DO ALL THREE IN LESS THAN ONE YEAR'S SCHOOLING UNDER THREE TEACHERS.



WRITING AND FIGURING IN SCHOOL WAS NOT ENOUGH TO SATISFY YOUNG ABE. HE GOT HIS COLENDEN'S TO MAKE HIM SOME INK FOR HOME USE AND WROTE HIS NAME OVER AND OVER IN HIS SUM BOOK.



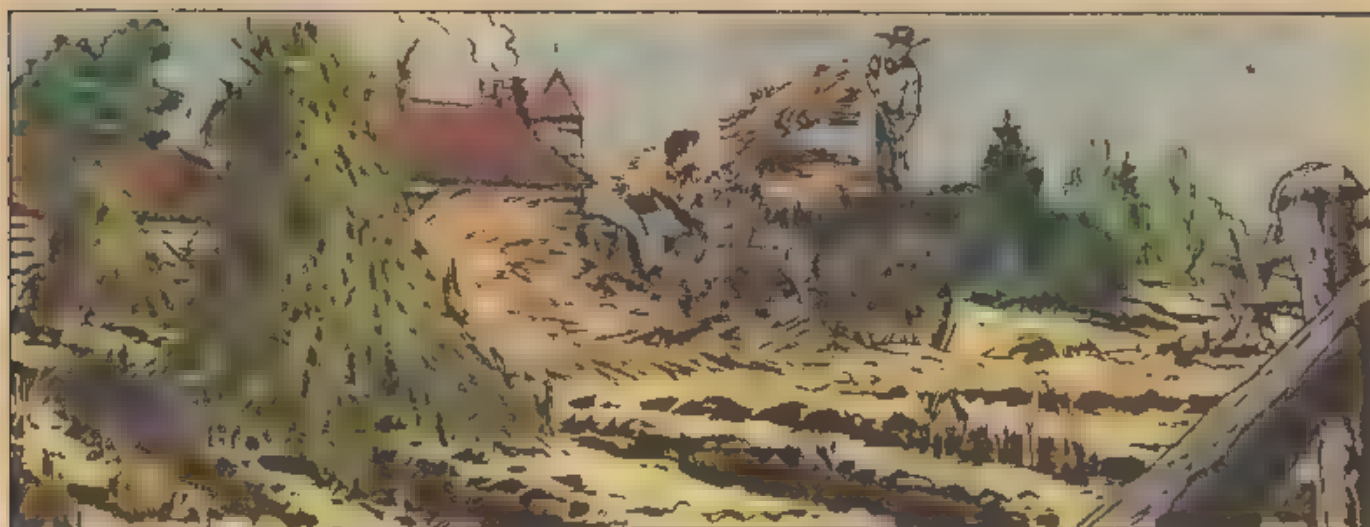
READING BOOKS WAS HIS MOST INTEREST. FROM THEN ON, OFTEN WHEN HE WENT OUT TO WORK IN THE FIELD HE WOULD TAKE ONE ALONG TO READ WHILE EATING HIS COLD CORN "CACKERS".



HE SPENT MUCH TIME READING THE FAMILY'S BIBLE AND EVERY OTHER BOOK HE COULD GET HOLD OF. HIS STEPMOTHER KEPT HER YOUNGSTERS FROM TEASING HIM, SAYING "HE'LL BE A GREAT MAN!"



HIS LOVE FOR BOOKS BECAME A WONDER AND SOME TIMES A BOTHER --- TO THE NEIGHBORS HE WORKED FOR WHILE HE COULD AND DID WORK HARD HIS HEART WAS MORE IN READING.



ABE LINCOLN'S LONG, STRONG MUSCLES KEPT PACE WITH HIS GROWTH. AT SEVENTEEN HE TOPPED SIX FEET AND WAS MORE POWERFUL THAN MOST GROWN MEN. HE WORKED OUT FOR PAY.



HIS HABIT OF TAKING A BOOK ALONG WITH HIM ONCE COST HIM THREE DAYS' WORK TO PAY FOR A BOOK THAT HAD BEEN RUINED. AND ABE, THE BOOK LOVER, DIDN'T REGRET THE PRICE!



THE COUNTRY WAS GETTING SETTLED BY THIS TIME. GENTRYVILLE, NEAR THE LINCOLN HOMESTEAD, BOASTED A GENERAL STORE WHERE THE FARMERS MET. OFTEN THEIR TALK WAS OF YOUNG ABE.



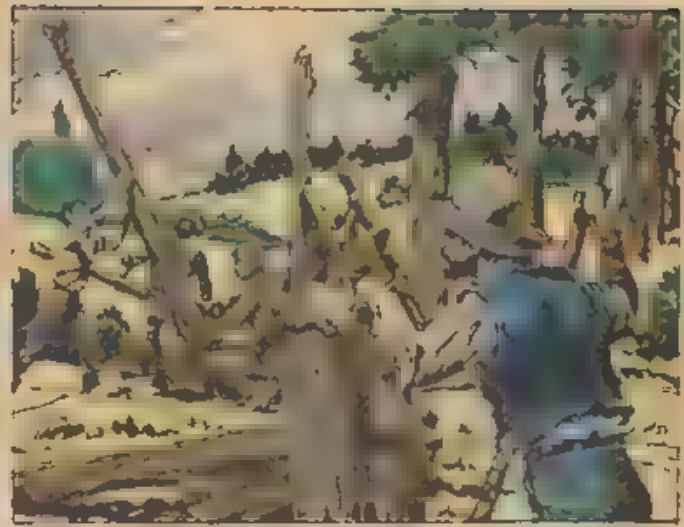
ABE LINCOLN'S BOOKISH KNOWLEDGE AND STORIES AMAZED--THOUGH THEY MAY HAVE DISAPPOINTED--TEEN-AGED KATE ROBY AS THEY SAT IN THE MOONLIGHT, DANGLING THEIR FEET IN THE CREEK.



BUT YOUNG ABE WAS NOT JUST A WORKER AND A BOOK WORM. HE WENT IN HEARTILY FOR THE ROUGH SPORTS OF THE FRONTIER---AND GENERALLY EXCELLED. FEW WISHED TO CHALLENGE HIS STRENGTH.



NO MAN IN THE REGION COULD SWING AN AXE SO HARD, OR MAKE A BIGGER CHIP EASILY THAN YOUNG LINCOLN COULD. AND LIKE MOST YOUTHS, ABE WAS NOT BASHFUL ABOUT SHOWING OFF.



AT EVERY HOUSE RAISING, A GREAT STRENGTH WAS IN DEMAND, AND AT THE FEASTING AND PLAY WHICH USUALLY FOLLOWED SUCH AN AFFAIR, LINCOLN GREATLY ENJOYED HIMSELF.



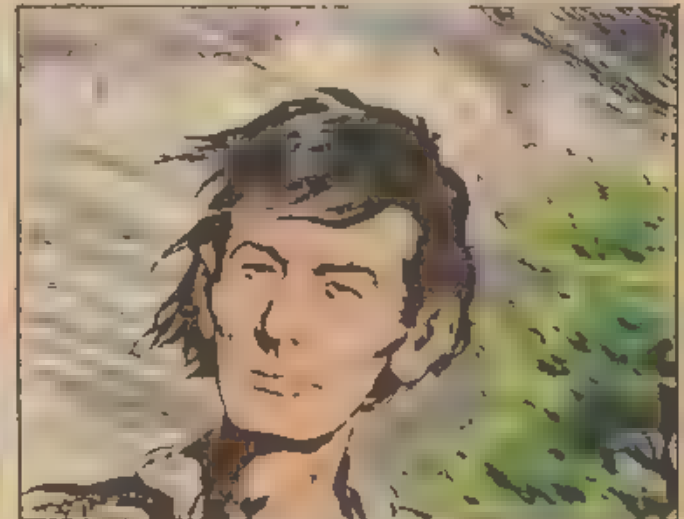
SOMETIMES A GATHERING OF LOCAL YOUTHS RESULTED IN A FREE FOR ALL FIGHT. IF INJUSTICE WERE INVOLVED, THE INJURED SIDE COULD COUNT ON YOUNG ABE LINCOLN'S SUPPORT.



THERE WAS PRANKS FOR HIM TOO. ONE HE PICKED UP BOLDLY FOOTED UP AND OUT OF A POLE AND LET THEM WALK ON THE CEILING OF HIS HOME BUT AFTERWARDS HE CLEANED THEM UP OFF.



ONE OF HIS METHODS, HOWEVER, ABE WORKED ALONE IN A LITTLE CUTTING LOGS AND SPLITTING THEM INTO TWO OR THREE WEIGES INTO FIFTEEN PILES-- WHILE HE SAT WITH HIS EYES WATCHED HIM.



IN THE VOICES AND MOVEMENTS OF NATURE HE FOUND A DEEP COMPANIONSHIP. THEY REVEALED A SHAPING FOR HIM A GREAT WISDOM AND WISDOM. HE POWER TO STAND ALONE.

TRANSPORTATION



THE COMMONEST RIG FOR LONG HAULS AND DAY-AFTER-DAY TRAVEL WAS THE COVERED WAGON, PULLED BY TWO OR MORE OXEN. CONSIDERING THE ROADS, TEN MILES A DAY WAS A GOOD TRIP.



WOMEN RARELY RODE HORSEBACK, EXCEPT ON A "PILLION" OR PAD BEHIND A MAN'S SADDLE. TO RIDE ASTRIDE WAS CONSIDERED VERY UNWOMANLY, ONLY AN EMERGENCY COULD EXCUSE IT.



MULES OR HORSES HAULED FREIGHT FASTER AND WERE USED MORE THAN OXEN. WHEN TIME HAD TO BE SAVED, A GOOD MULE TEAM COULD COVER TWENTY OR THIRTY MILES A DAY, ANY DAY.



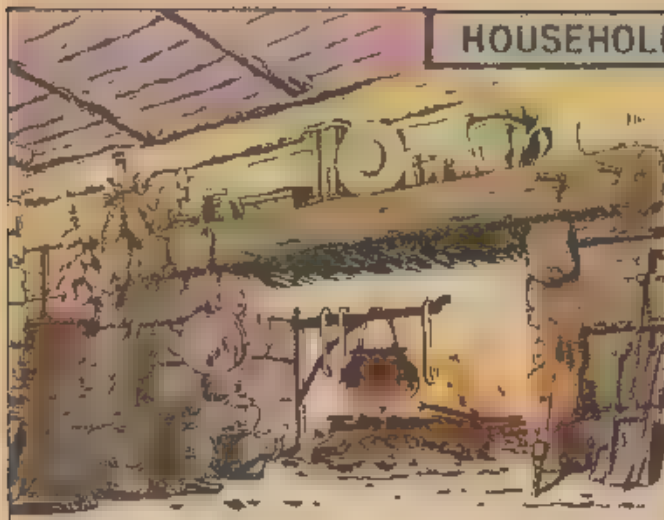
LONG DISTANCE TRAVEL OVERLAND WAS MOSTLY BY STAGECOACH. IT WAS EXPENSIVE AND UNCOMFORTABLE. THEN TOO, THERE WERE BREAKDOWNS, ESPECIALLY WHEN FORDING STREAMS.



UP AND DOWN THE GREAT MISSISSIPPI AND OHIO RIVERS, WOOD-BURNING STEAMBOATS PLIED. THEY CARRIED BOTH FREIGHT AND PASSENGERS, HUGE PADDLEWHEELS CHURNING.



RAILWAY TRAVEL WAS JUST BEGINNING TO CUT INTO THE PROFITS OF STAGECOACH LINES. IN 1840, THERE WERE ONLY 2,816 MILES OF RAILROAD IN ALL THE UNITED STATES.



HOUSEHOLD EQUIPMENT

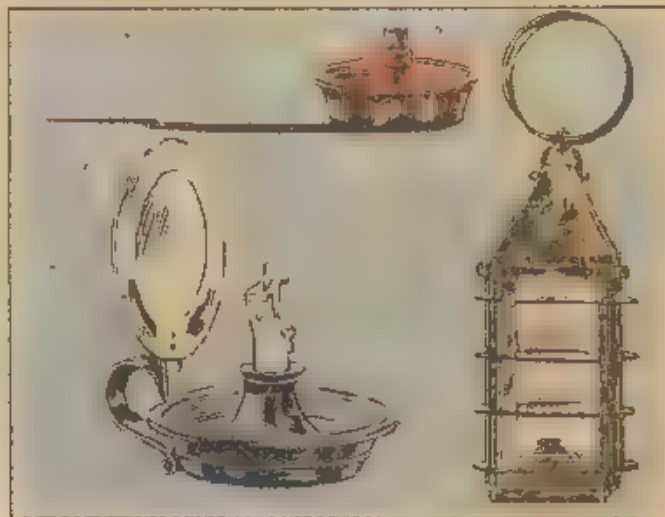
THE CENTER OF THE ONE-ROOM CABIN HOUSEHOLD--THE USUAL PIONEER DWELLING---WAS THE FIRE-PLACE WHERE ALL INDOOR COOKING WAS DONE. IT WAS BUILT OF MUD, FACED WITH LOGS.



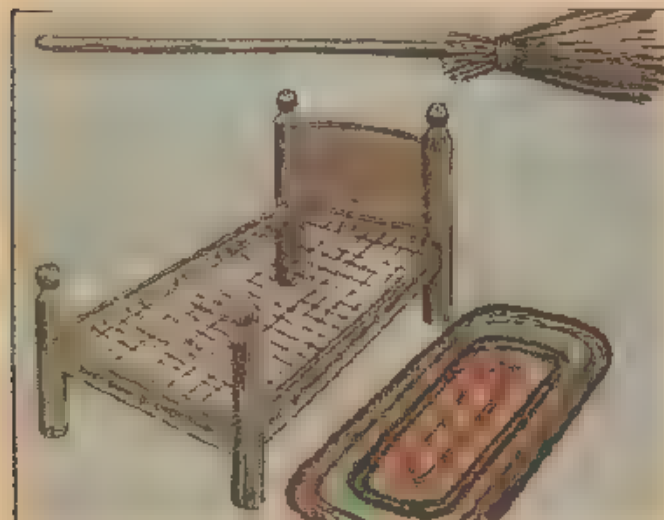
OF NEXT IMPORTANCE WAS THE CLOTHING FACTORY, NAMELY, SPINNING WHEEL, WOOL CARDS AND WEAVING LOOM. ALL PIONEER WOMEN HAD TO KNOW HOW TO MAKE CLOTH FROM WOOL AND FLAX.



MOST PIONEER MEN COULD MAKE SOME SORT OF FURNITURE WITH AN AXE AND A KNIFE. SOME, LIKE THOMAS LINCOLN, WERE EXPERTS AT IT, AND HAD BETTER TOOLS TO WORK WITH.



CANDLES SUPPLIED LIGHT IN BOTH THE CABINS OF THE POOR AND THE FINE HOUSES OF THE RICH. A CANDLE HOLDER WITH A METAL REFLECTOR WAS POPULAR---ALSO SQUARE SIDED LANTERNS.



THE BEST BEDS WERE MADE FROM TAUT ROPE, CRISS-CROSSED, FIRM YET SPRINGY. ON THIS, A MATTRESS OF STRAW OR CORNHUSKS WAS LAID. A RUG WAS A LUXURY---BROOMS HOMEMADE.



TOILET EQUIPMENT WAS JUST AS SIMPLE; PLUMBING WAS THE "SPLASH AND CARRY" SYSTEM. IN PLACE OF A MODERN BATHROOM WAS A LITTLE WASHSTAND. NO ONE KNEW OF ANYTHING BETTER!

CLOTHING



IN THE BACKWOODS WHERE LINCOLN GREW UP A HOMESPUN SHIRT OF TOW LLEN, MIXED WITH WOOL, TROUSERS OF TANNED DEERHIDE, AND A COON-SKIN CAP, MADE A MAN FEEL WELL DRESSED.



FEW PIONEERS ENJOYED SUCH LUXURIES AS A NIGHT SHIRT AND NIGHT CAP---UNLESS THEY HAD KNOWN MORE PROSPEROUS DAYS! BUT WHEN NIGHTS WERE COLD, THIS OUTFIT HELPED!



CABIN WERE POORLY HEATED, AT BEST---SO THE WOMEN FOLK WORE SIX POUND PETTICOATS AND HOME KNITTED WOOLEN STOCKINGS---UNDER A WOOLEN DRESS FOR THE WINTER



THESE WERE FOR LONG RIDES ON HORSEBACK OR IN A SLEIGH IN ZERO WEATHER! MEN WHO COULD AFFORD TO OWN A BUFFALO FUR COAT, HAT AND GAUNTLETS WERE ENVIED! BEARSKIN WAS USED, TOO.



POOR FOLKS WENT BAREFOOT IN SUMMER AND IN COLDER WEATHER WORE MOCCASINS. THE WELL TO DO WORE BOOTS OF COWHIDE, AND THE RICH WOMEN HAD HIGH-BUTTONED SHOES.



FELT HAT, BLACK SUIT, AND A WHITE SHIRT WITH STOCK MARKED A GENTLEMAN IN HIS SUNDAY BEST. BONNET AND SHAWL OF GOOD QUALITY WERE THE "DECENT" OUTDOOR WEAR OF HIS WIFE.

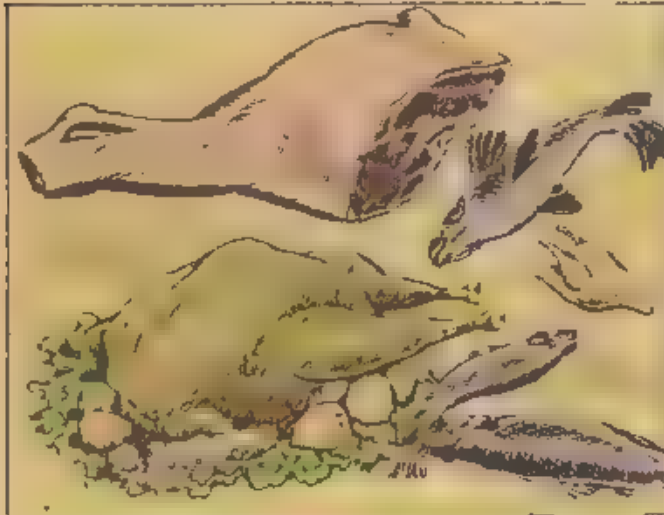
FOOD AND COOKERY



IN CABINS LIKE THAT OF THE LINCOLNS, BREAD TOOK THE FORM OF "CORNDODGERS" --- BISCUITS MADE OF CORNMEAL AND BAKED BY THE GLOWING COALS OF THE CLAY FIREPLACE.



VEGETABLES WERE FEW IN THE BACKWOODS DIET EVEN YAMS WERE RARE BUT THERE WERE OFTEN PUMPKINS (BOILED) AND WHOLE CORN HULLED WITH BOILED HOMINY.



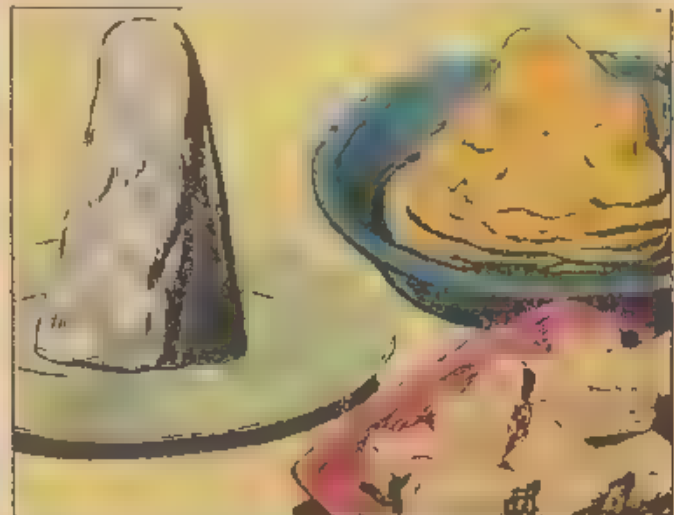
OF GAME AND FISH CAUGHT IN THE STREAMS, THERE WAS MORE VARIETY. DEER AND BEAR MEAT WERE "VENISON", GREATLY RELISHED. THERE WERE ALSO TURKEYS, GEESSE, AND PIGEONS



WILD FRUITS IN SEASON WERE AN IMPORTANT PART OF THE FOOD SUPPLY. RASPBERRIES, CURRANTS, HUCKLEBERRIES, STRAWBERRIES, BLACKBERRIES AND DEWBERRIES WERE FOUND.



WILD CHESTNUTS, HICKORY NUTS AND HAZEL NUTS WERE GATHERED BY BOYS AND SQUIRRELS. BUT THERE WAS ALWAYS A QUESTION OF WHETHER THE BOYS WOULD GET THERE BEFORE THE SQUIRRELS.



SWEETS WERE MOSTLY WILD HONEY, TAKEN FROM HOLLOW TREES; MAPLE SUGAR BOILED DOWN FROM THE SAP OF MAPLE TREES, AND SOMETIMES A LOAF OF HARD, CANE SUGAR FROM THE STORE.

ARCHITECTURE



MOST PIONEER HOMES, STORES AND CHURCHES WERE BUILT OF LOGS - THE CHEAPEST HANDEST MATERIAL - A BY-PRODUCT OF CLEARING THE LAND - NOTCHED AT THE END, THEY LOCKED.



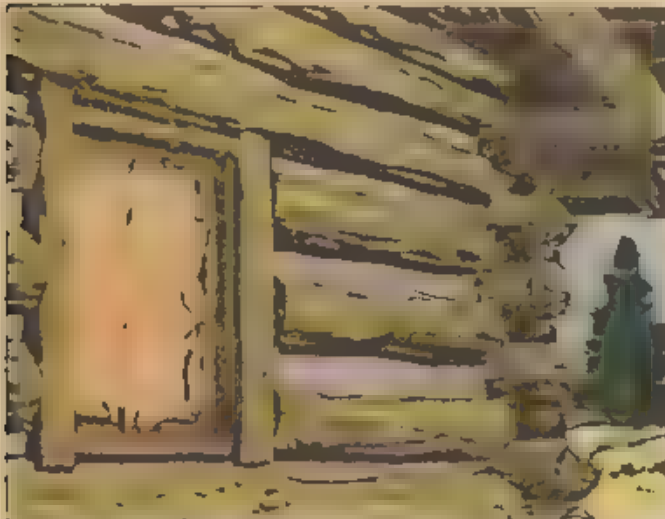
STOVEPIPES WERE UNKNOWN AND SOOTY STOVES AS THERE WERE COULD BE FOUND ONLY IN TOWNS. THIS MADE THE MOJO AND SMOCK CHIMNEY FIREPLACE OF FIRST IMPORTANCE.



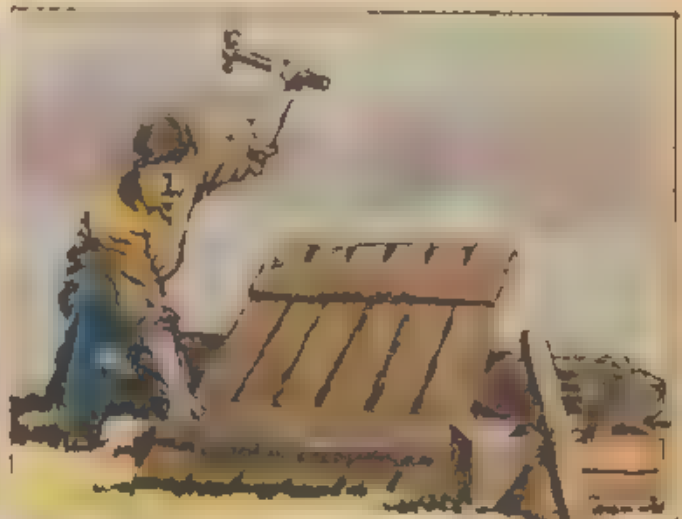
ROOFS WERE COVERED WITH SHAKES WHICH WERE THIN SLABS OF STRAIGHT GRAINED WOOD SPLIT FROM THUNKS WITH AN AXE. SINCE NAILS WERE LACKING THEY WERE HELD ON WITH PEGS.



ANOTHER PIONEER METHOD WAS TO COVER THE ROOF WITH LODGE CLAY. THIS REQUIRED STRONGER SUPPORTING RAFTERS AND HAD THE DISADVANTAGE OF SETTING DUST DOWN OVER ALL.

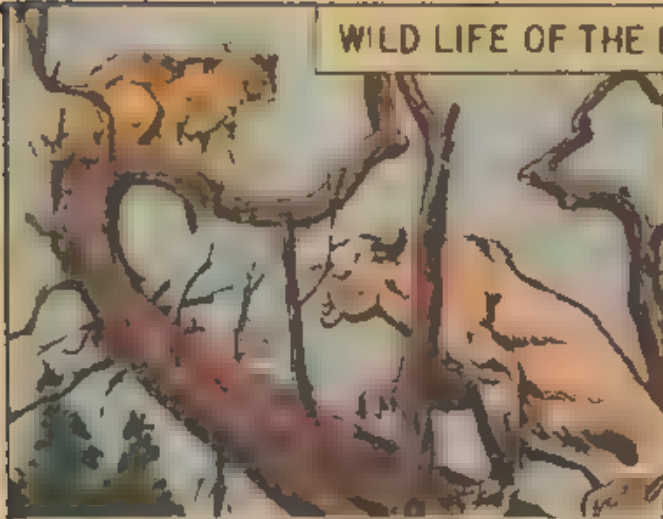


USUALLY THE PIONEER HOUSE BUILT HAD NO GLASS WINDOWS - 10 FT HIGH AND 5 FT WIDE. IF HAD ANY COULD BE USED A THIN BLADDER OR ANIMAL MEMBRANE INSTEAD.



DOORS WERE MADE OF PLANKS - SAWED FROM A LOG WITH A WHIP SAW OR HELD IN PLACE WITH A BROAD AXE. IT WAS ROUGH, APPARENTLY AND BOUGHT TO LET IN DRAUGHTS WHEN THE WIND BLEW.

WILD LIFE OF THE BACKWOODS



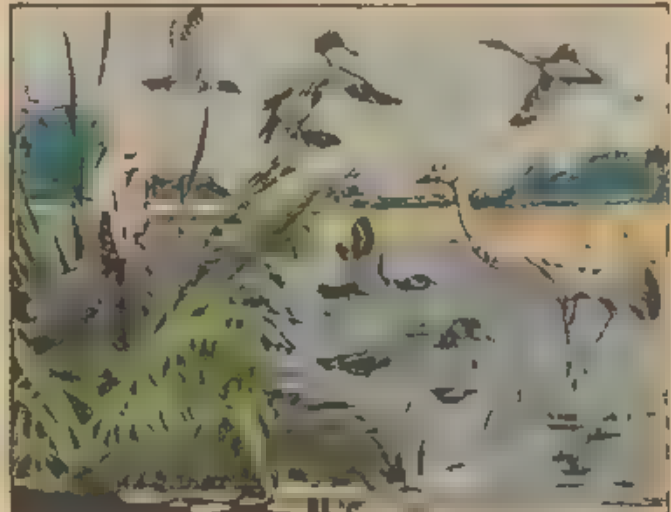
THE WILDCAT OF THE BACKWOODS COUNTRY OF LINCOLN'S DAY, THE COUGAR AND THE WILDCAT WERE WELL KNOWN. THEIR TRACKS NEARBY MEANT SLAUGHTERED CALVES AND STEAKS AND CHICKENS.



DEER WERE PRIZED BY THE FRONTIERSMEN. THEY WERE THE MAIN SOURCE OF MEAT FOR THE PRATHERS AND WAS SOUGHT AFTER BY SMALL BANDS IN EASTERN STATES.



THE CHIMNEY OF THE SETTLER WAS A HIDEOUT TO THE RABBITS WHO LIVED ON GRASS AND GREEN CROPS-- AND THEREFORE TO FOX AND MINK WHOSE LIVING DEPENDED PARTLY ON RABBITS.



WOLVES WERE THE MOST COMMON OF THE WILDLIFE OF THE BACKWOODS. THEY WERE THE MAIN SOURCE OF MEAT FOR THE FRONTIERSMEN. FOR MANY YEARS THERE WERE NOT BEING HUNTERS TO SERVE ONLY THEMSELVES.



THE BEAR WAS THE MOST COMMON OF THE WILDLIFE OF THE BACKWOODS. HE ALWAYS CAME TO THE FRONTIERSMEN. HE WAS THE MAIN SOURCE OF MEAT FOR THE FRONTIERSMEN. HE WAS THE MAIN SOURCE OF MEAT FOR THE FRONTIERSMEN.



WOLVES AND BEARS MADE THE FRONTIERSMEN ALMOST IMPOSSIBLE FOR THE FIRST FEW YEARS OF SETTLER SETTLEMENT-- AND THEY DIED EVEN AFTER THE FOREST GAVE PLACE TO MILES OF CLEARED FARMLAND.

YOUNG MANHOOD



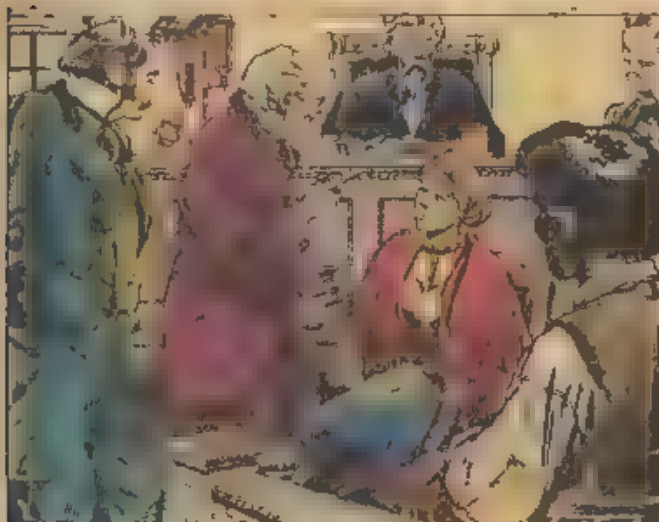
IN SPITE OF LONG HOURS AT LABOR IN THE WOODLAND, YOUNG ABE LINCOLN FOUND TIME FOR BOOK STUDY AND HE PRACTICED WRITING LETTERS FOR HIS NEIGHBORS.



HE TRIED LIQUOR AND TObACCO, DEEDING AGAINST THEM--BUT NOT AGAINST THE FRIENDS WHO USED THEM. ABE "SAW THROUGH" APPETITES AS WELL AS PEOPLE.



HE TOOK TIME OFF TO VISIT THE COUNTY SEAT AND LISTEN TO THE NOISY SPEECHES OF POLITICIANS. ABE LEARNED MUCH THIS WAY.



ATTENDING COURT TRIALS HE STUDIED FOR ALL LAWYERS AT WORK. YOUNG ABE LINCOLN GATHERED ALL KINDS OF INFORMATION AND REMEMBERED IT.



BUT ABE LINCOLN HAD HIS BLACK MOODS WHICH DOGGED HIM THROUGHOUT LIFE. WHEN SUCH SPELLS GRIPPED HIM ONLY HIS BELOVED STEPMOTHER COULD HELP.



ON SUNDAYS, ABE WENT TO THE LOG MEETING HOUSE WITH HIS FAMILY HERE, AS IN EVERY PLACE, HE TRIED TO PICK OUT THE TRUE VALUES OF LIFE.



ABE SENSED THAT TO SOME OF THE WORSHIPERS GOD WAS VERY NEAR AND REAL. AS WAS THE JESUS WHOSE HEART EMBRACED THE EVILS AND LEPERS. THESE PERSONS HELD ABE'S DEEP RESPECT.



THE PREACHING, THE LIVING EXAMPLES OF MERCY WHICH ABE KNEW, WERE ALREADY PART OF HIS OWN NATURE. AS WHEN HE CARRIED HOME A HELPLESS, DRUNKEN MAN ON A FREEZING NIGHT.



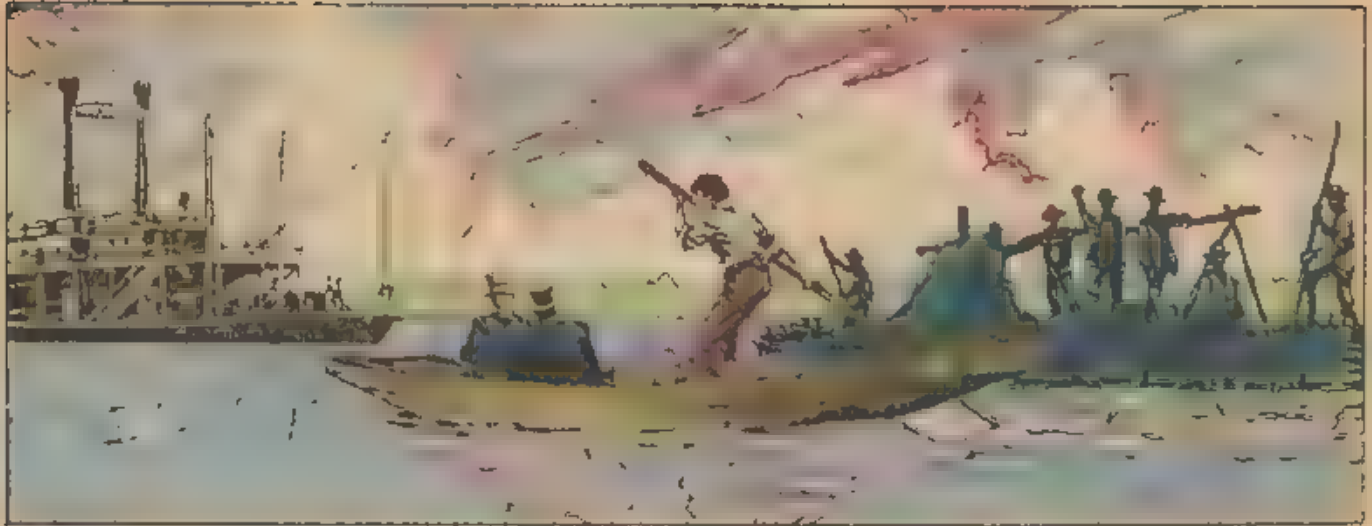
WHILE STILL IN HIS TEENS, YOUNG LINCOLN BOUGHT A SCOW AT THE MOUTH OF ANDERSON CREEK. HE MEANT TO EARN SOME MONEY BY CARRYING PASSENGERS ON THE OHIO RIVER.



NOT EVERYBODY WAS SYMPATHETIC. TWO BROTHERS NAMED DILL WHO RAN A FERRY OF THEIR OWN FEARED ABE MIGHT CUT INTO THEIR BUSINESS. BUT ABE WENT RIGHT AHEAD.



WITH HIS SCOW COMPANY, HE FOUND A GOOD BUSINESS IN CARRYING PASSENGERS TO THE MIDDLE OF THE RIVER WHERE THEY COULD BOARD STEAMBOATS.



THE WORK WAS EASY - IN ORDER TO LOAD AND UNLOAD THE BOATS - AND THE PAY WHICH SOME TIMES WAS A HALF DOLLAR A WEEK - WAS HIGH COMPARED WITH THE THIRTY ONE CENTS A DAY HE WAS USED TO



WHEN TWENTY EIGHT YEARS OLD HE BOUGHT A FLAT BOAT FOR A WEALTHY FARMER, JAMES GENTRY TO CARRY FREIGHT DOWN RIVER TO NEW ORLEANS. IT WAS MADE OF HEAVY OAK PLANKS



GENTRY'S SON ALLEN WAS CAPTAIN WHEN THE FLATBOAT WAS LOADED AND SET ALONG RIVER. IT WAS KEPT ONLY BY THE LONG SWEEPS, FORE AND AFT



LYNCOLE'S GREAT STRENGTH WAS OFTEN NEEDED WHEN A STRONG CURRENT OR A Sudden GALE OF WIND THREATENED TO DRIVE THE CLUMSY CRAFT AGAINST THE RIVERBANK



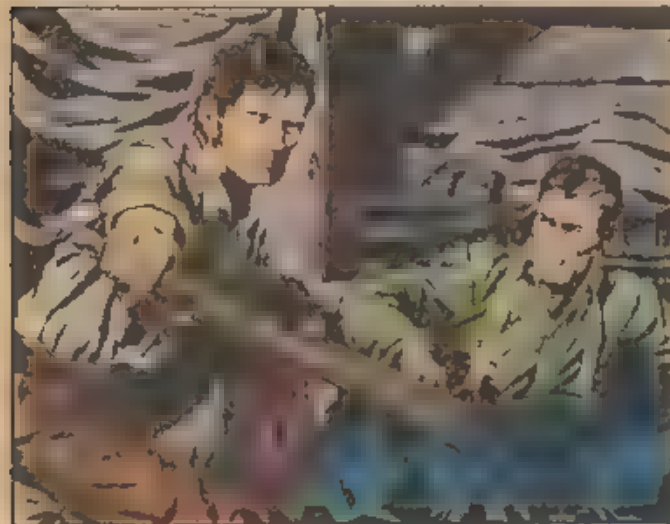
AT NIGHT THERE WAS ALWAYS DANGER OF BEING CRASHED BY THE CRAFT. SO ONE OF THE FLATBOAT MEN HAD TO STAY ALERT THROUGHOUT THE NIGHT BY SWINGING A LANTERN OR A BURNING STICK



NEAR THE END OF THEIR JOURNEY, LINCOLN AND YOUNG GENTRY MOORED THEIR FLATBOAT AT A PLANTATION WHARF FOR THE NIGHT SO THAT THEY COULD PUT THEIR CARGO IN SHAPE.



WITH NO NEED TO WAIT FOR THE FEVER TRAFFIC, BOTH THE YOUNG MEN WENT TO SLEEP IN THE SMALL DECK SHELTER-- TAKING CARE, ALL THE WHILE, NEVER TO KEEP TWO STOUT GUARDS FROM WATCHING THEM.



SOME TIME DURING THE NIGHT, LINCOLN AWAKENED TO SEE DARK FORMS MOVING SILENTLY ABOUT THE FLATBOAT'S CARGO. HE WAKED HIS PARTNER, GRABBED HIS CLUB.



THE TWO YOUNG BOATMEN PLUNGED OUT ON DECK INTO A BUNCH OF SEVEN TIGHTS WHO HAD COME ABOARD TO MURDER AND LOOT. FOR A MOMENT, THEY WOULD HAVE SUCCEEDED.



BUT YOUNG LINCOLN STOOD SIX FEET FOUR INCHES AND WEIGHED TWO HUNDRED AND FOURTEEN POUNDS --- MOSTLY MUSCLE. HE SWUNG HIS CRABTREE CLUB WITH TERRIBLE EFFECT.



A FEW OF THE ROBBERS WERE KNOCKED OVERBOARD, BUT THE OTHERS STILL COUNTED ON NUMBERS TO SUBDUCE THE YOUNG BOATMEN. CLUB CRACKED AGAINST CLUB-- AND SOMETIMES SKULLS--



SUDDENLY WITH A SWIFT FLICK THE LOOTERS
HROKE AND FLE TO THE WOODS -- WITH LINCOLN
AND GENTRY HANGING ON THEIR HEELS. THE YOUNG
MEN DID NOT CHASE THEIR ENEMIES FAR THOUGH.



THEY WERE AFRAID THAT OTHER LOOTERS MIGHT
TAKE OVER WHERE THE FIRST BUNCH HAD LEFT
OFF. SO THEY HURRIED BACK ON DECK NURSING
THEIR BATTLE WOUNDS.



AGE LINCOLN HAD A DEEP CUT ABOVE HIS RIGHT
EYE. HE CARRIED THE SCAR FOR THE REST OF HIS
LIFE. HE PAID SMALL ATTENTION TO IT NOW, AS
THEY LOADED THE BOAT.



A FEW DAYS LATER THEY WERE AMONG THE BUSY
LONG RIVER AND OCEAN TRAFFIC OF NEW ORLEANS.
TALL SEA-GOING VESSELS RODE AT ANCHOR.
PADDLE-WHEEL STEAMERS CHAFED AGAINST THE
DOCKS.



THE BUSINESS OF CLEANSING THE RIVER CARGO
WAS SOON FINISHED, AND THE YOUNG MEN WERE
READY TO GO ON WITH THEIR ADVENTURES IN THE GREAT FREE
CITY WHERE ALL THE WORLD MET.



SAILORS FROM EVERY BUSY PORT LEFT THEIR
RUBBED SHOULDERS WITH THEM. A FLEET OF
COUNTRY BOATS, PICKUP CRAFT, AND OTHER SMALL
VESSELS PASSED, CARRYING BURDENS OF THE PEOPLE.



THE TRIP WAS MARKED BY THE HARDSHIPS OF PIONEER TRAVEL. ICE STILL FLOATED IN THE RIVERS THEY HAD TO FORD, COLD RAIN AND MUD WERE THE ORDER OF THE DAY.



ONCE ABE HAD TO RESCUE HIS DOG WHO HAD MADE THE MISTAKE OF THINKING THE THIN ICE WOULD HOLD. EVERYONE DEPENDED ON THE LANKY, YOUNG GIANT.



AT LAST THEY REACHED THE SECTION WHICH JOHN HANKS HAD CHOSEN FOR THEM. ON THE SANGAMON RIVER SOME TEN MILES FROM THE TOWN OF DECATUR, RICH SOIL UNDER TOUGH SOIL.



HERE THE LINCOLNS BUILT A LOG HOUSE, A BARN AND OUTBUILDINGS. LATER THEY CLEARED SOME LAND, FENCED IT WITH SPLIT RAILS AND PLANTED THE FIRST CROP.



BUT YOUNG ABE'S HEART WAS NOT IN FARMING. HE HAD ONE GREAT SECRET AMBITION, CHERISHED SINCE CHILDHOOD-- TO ONE DAY BECOME PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES.



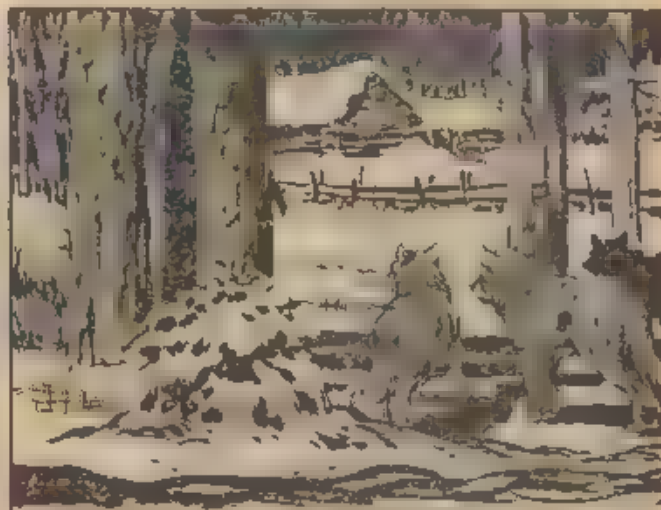
IN BETWEEN RAIL SPLITTING, PLOWING AND PLANTING, HE PRACTICED SPEECH MAKING - HIS AID ENCE, THE STUMPS IN A STUMP LOT OR TREES, STILL UNTOUCHED BY HIS PIONEER AXE.



ONE YEAR AFTER REACHING VOTING AGE, ABE MADE HIS FIRST POLITICAL ADDRESS--- AT A GATHERING IN DECATUR, HE URGED IMPROVEMENT OF A LOCAL WATERWAY.



BUT YOUNG LINCOLN WAS STILL A FARMER - STILL A LONG WAY FROM THE START OF HIS CHOSEN CAREER! THE WINTER OF '830 '3 FOUND HIM FIGHTING BLIZZARD AFTER BLIZZARD.



RAIN FROZE ON A SMOTHERING FOUR FEET OF SNOW, WHICH HAD DRIFTED TO GREATER DEPTHS. WOLF PACKS DRIFTED HUNGRILY OVER THE ICY CRUST, WHILE COLD PERCED THE CASIN WALLS.



--- LIVES TOCK, BOTH WILD AND DOMESTIC, WAITED FOR THE SLOW DEATH OF FREEZING OR THE QUICK DEATH BROUGHT BY SHARP FANGS! ONLY THE WOLVES AND THE BOBCATS PROSPERED!



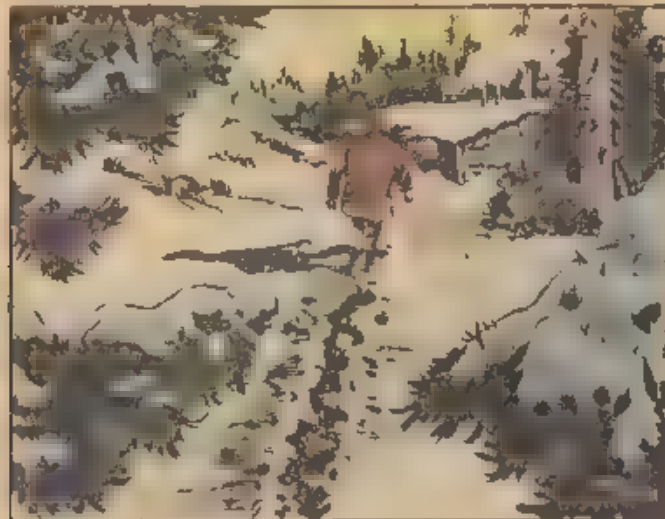
INDOORS, WHOLE FAMILIES DIED OF COLD AND HUNGER - UNABLE TO BREAK THROUGH THE SNOW TO REACH FOOD AND FIREWOOD! THOSE WITH BIGGER SUPPLIES HAD A CLOSE CALL!



ALTHOUGH WEAKENED BY LACK OF ENOUGH FOOD AND ILLNESS, ABE LINCOLN TRIED TO REACH THE HOUSE OF A NEIGHBOR WHO LIVED ACROSS THE RIVER. NOBODY ELSE WOULD HAVE TRIED IT.



PART WAY ACROSS THE RIVER, HE BROKE THROUGH A HOLE WHICH THE CURRENT HAD WORN IN THE SNOW COVERED ICE. HIS FEET GOT THOROUGHLY SOAKED... IN BELOW ZERO WEATHER!



CLAMBERING OUT OF THE HOLE, HE PLODDED ON HIS FROST-BITTEN, STIFF WITH ICE. HIS FEET AT FIRST SHOT WITH FIERY PAINS THEN TURNING NUMB, AS THEY SLOWLY FROZE.



HE REACHED WILLIAM WARNICK'S HOUSE, AND STUMBLED IN, MUTTERING THAT HE COULDN'T FEEL HIS FEET ANY MORE. MRS. WARNICK, KNOWING HER VISITOR WAS IN ANGER, ACTED QUICKLY.



SHE USED SNOW... AND THEN GREASE BRISKLY RUBBED IN... TO TAKE OUT THE FROST-BITE. AND HOWEVER UNSUCCESSFUL HER METHOD MAY HAVE BEEN, IT WORKED! ABE'S FEET WERE SAVED.



WHEN THE FLOODS THAT FOLLOWED THE MELTING SNOW GAVE WAY TO MUD, TOM LINCOLN AND HIS KIN MOVED OUT. THEY HAD HAD ENOUGH OF A COUNTRY WHERE SUCH DEADLY WINTERS WERE POSSIBLE.



ABE DID NOT ACCOMPANY HIS FAMILY! HE WAS ALREADY A YOUNG MAN OF TWENTY-THREE, AND HE SAW A CHANCE TO CUT LOOSE, ONCE AND FOR ALL, FROM STOP-AND-GO PIONEERING.



A YEAR LATER SAW HIM AND JOHN HANKS BUILDING AN EIGHTY-FOOT FLATBOAT OF PLANKS SAWED FROM TREES THEY HAD CUT THEMSELVES. THEY WERE UNDER CONTRACT WITH ONE DENTON OFFUTT.



OFFUTT WAS A LIKEABLE BACKWOODS BUSINESSMAN, BUT TAKEN TO DRINKING LIQUOR AND MAKING WILD PROMISES. HE HAD A PLAN FOR LINCOLN AND JOHN HANKS.



YOUNG ABE KNEW THE MAN'S CHARACTER, BUT HE LIKED OFFUTT JUST THE SAME AND AGREED TO HELP TAKE A CARGO DOWN TO NEW ORLEANS FOR TWELVE DOLLARS A MONTH PAY.



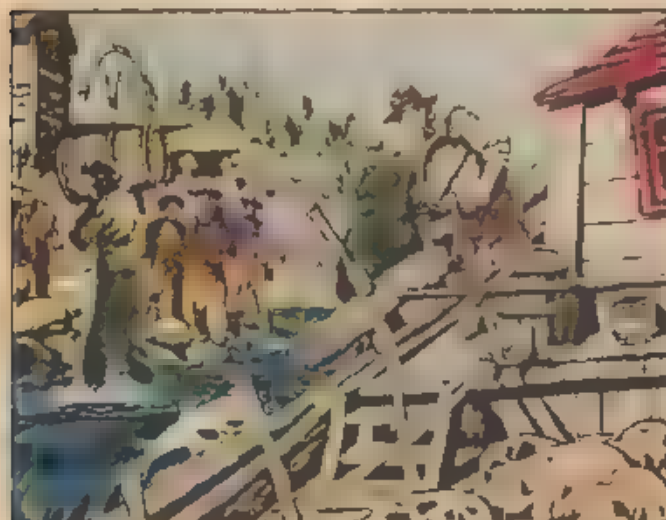
ABOUT THE MIDDLE OF APRIL, ABE AND HIS MOTHER'S COUSIN, JOHN HANKS, AND HIS STEPBROTHER JOHN JOHNSTON, PUSHED OFF DOWN THE SANGAMON WITH THEIR LOAD OF PIGS, PORK AND SACKED CORN.



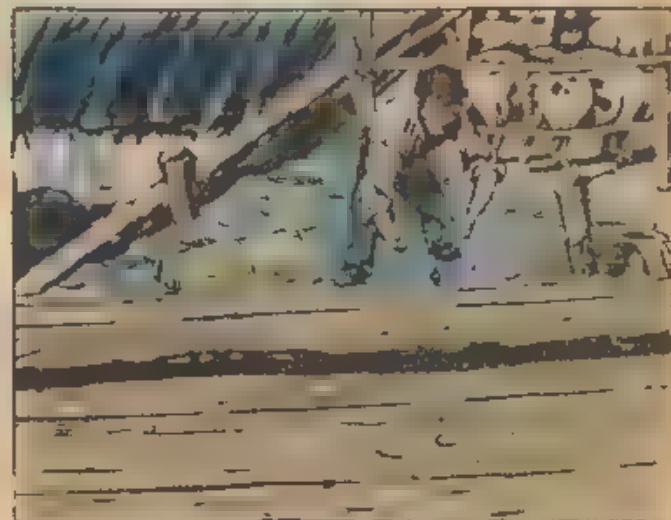
ALL WENT WELL UNTIL THEY REACHED NEW SALLM, WHERE THE FLATBOAT OVERRAN THE MILL DAM AND STUCK THERE WITH A FULL THIRD OF HER LENGTH HANGING OVER EMPTY AIR.



WATER, LAPPING OVER THE LOW SIDES, BEGAN TO FILL THE FORWARD END AND SOME OF THE CARGO STARTED TO JAM UP THERE! THE FLATBOAT TILTED, STERN UP, BOW DOWN—WHILE ABE PUZZLED.



BETWEEN TRYING TO GET THE CARGO HANKS AND UNBROKEN, THE PROBLEM WASN'T HOW TO GET IT UNLOADING A GOOD PART OF THE CARGO. A LITTLE THE DAM WAS WORKING UP AGAIN.



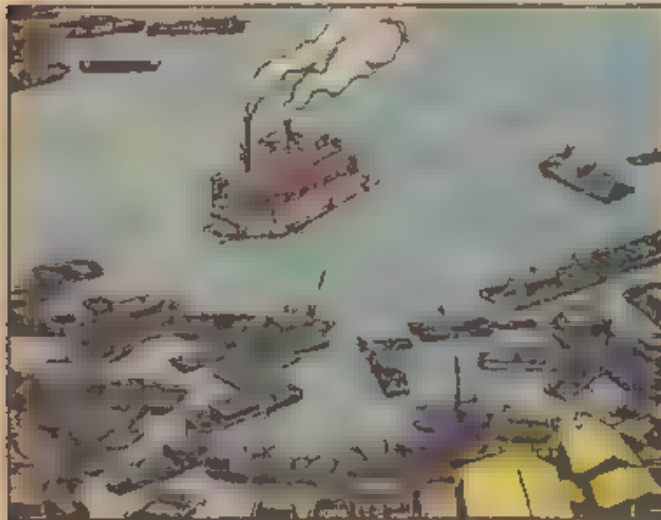
THE NEXT STEP WAS THE EASIEST! WITH AN AX, ABE BORED A HOLE IN THE FORWARD END—TO LET THE WATER OUT, RELIEVING THE UNBALANCE! JOHN HANKS HADN'T THOUGHT OF THAT!



THE LIGHTENED BOAT WAS EASILY FLOATED OVER THE DAM. THEN A WOODEN PLUG WAS PUT IN THE ALE-HOLE HOLE WHICH HAD LET THE WATER OUT. AND THE ADMIRING CROWD REMEMBERED IT, FOR HISTORY!



AS LINCOLN'S FLATBOAT NEARED THE MOUTH OF THE MIGHTY MISSISSIPPI, MORE BOATS OF ALL SORTS WERE ON THE RIVER. WHAT WOULD IT BE LIKE AT NEW ORLEANS?



THE ANSWER WAS: A MILE-WIDE MASS OF FLATBOATS, MOORED GUNWALE TO GUNWALE, HEAVING GENTLY ON THE TIDE. LINCOLN'S CRAFT WAS FORCED TO TIE UP TO ITS OUTER EDGE.



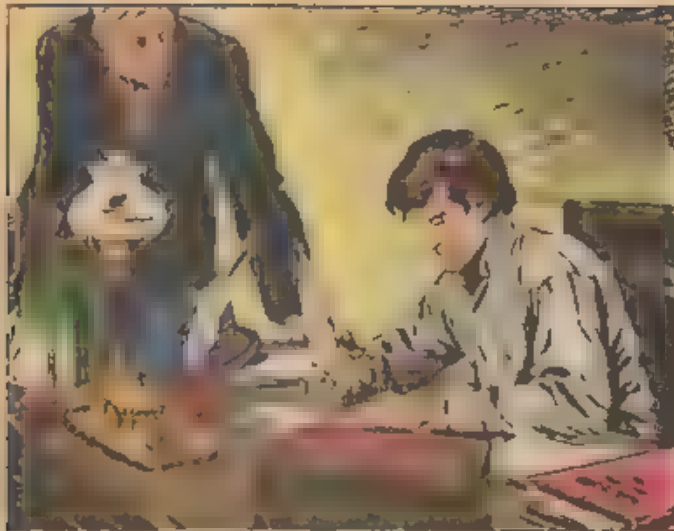
ABE'S LONG LEGS MADE SHORT WORK OF THE TRIP TO SHORE. HE HAD LITTLE MONEY TO SPEND, BUT HE WAS HUNGRY FOR NEW SIGHTS, NEW FACTS TO STORE UP IN HIS ACTIVE BRAIN.



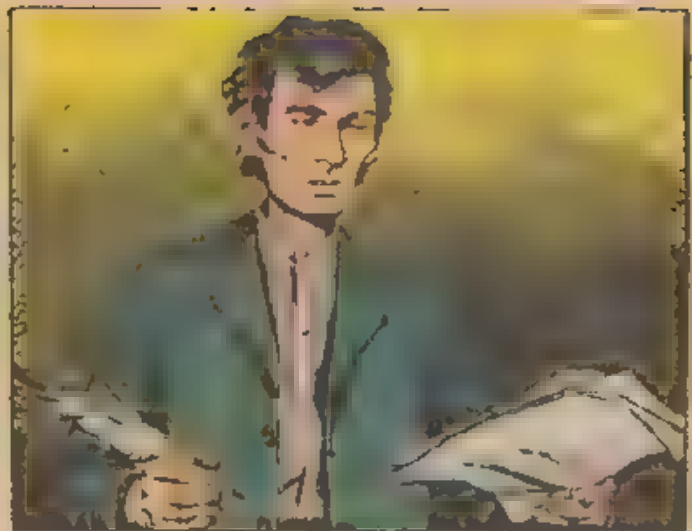
THE SIGHTS WHICH MOST IMPRESSED HIM ON THIS TRIP WERE THOSE OF THE SLAVE MARKET, WHERE HUMAN BEINGS WERE SOLD LIKE CATTLE TO THE HIGHEST BIDDER.



HE PROMISED HIMSELF: IF EVER GET A CHANCE TO HIT THAT THING I'LL HIT IT HARD. HOW HARD HE WOULD HIT SLAVERY, AS PRESIDENT, EVEN ABE DID NOT FORESEE.



GETTING HOME TO NEW SALEM, ABRAHAM LINCOLN KEPT
STUDYING, LEARNED ENGLISH GRAMMAR AND LEARNED
HOW TO WRITE LEGAL PAPERS FROM HIS FRIEND,
JUSTICE DOWLING GREEN.



IN MARCH, 1832, HE GOT INTO POLITICS
RUNNING FOR THE ILLINOIS STATE LEGISLATURE.
HE CAME OUT STRONGLY FOR EDUCATION AND
RELIGION.



IN THE WINTER, A STEAMBOAT TRAVELER
PIFFED AND CHANGED AT THE SANGAMON RIVER
BOARD FOR A SAILBOAT. SHE STAYED IN THE
SANGAMON BUT SHE NEEDED HELP!



YOUNG LINCOLN AND A CROWD OF LOCAL MEN WORKED
FROM A BOAT CHOPPING AWAY OVERHANGING
BRANCHES ALONG THE SANGAMON SO THAT
THE STEAMBOAT COULD GET THROUGH.



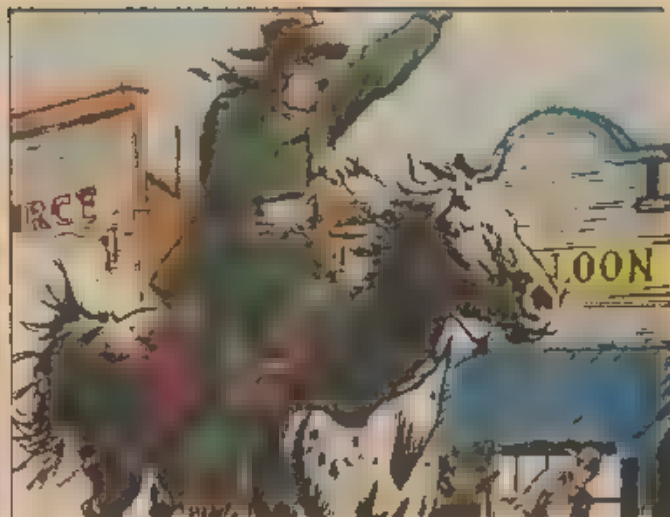
THE FEW LOCAL KNAYS WHICH COULD REPTHE
E TION FROM A STEAMER. THESE OFTEN HAD
TO BE PULLED LOOSE FROM THE RIVER MUD WITH
CROWBARS AND HAULED AWAY.



WITH THE CHANNEL CLEARED THE STEAMBOAT
STEAMED PROUDLY UP TO PORTLAND, ILLINOIS,
WELCOMED BY A CHEERING CROWD. IT CARRIED
NEW MERCHANDISE FROM CINCINNATI.



LATER, WHEN THE SPRING FRESHET HAD PASSED AND THE RIVER WAS DANGEROUSLY LOW, LINCOLN WAS ONE OF THE PLOTS WHO EASED THE TALISMAN DOWN THE SANGAMON TO THE ILLINOIS.



THE FOLLOWING MONTH EX-TEMPORANTE, AT THE NEW SALEM, IN THE FORM OF A RICHMOND GOVERNOR REYNOLDS, BEARING NEWS OF WAR — — — THE INDIANS HAD RESIGNED.



THE MESSENGER READ ALOUD A CALL FOR FIFTY HUNDRED VOLUNTEERS FROM SANGAMON COUNTY. THE FLUX AND SALT THENCE, HE SAID WERE ON THE WARPATH UNDER THE BLACK HAWK.



AT THE HEAD OF HIS BRAVES THE OLD WARRIOR HAD CROSSED THE MISSISSIPPI RIVER TO RECLAIM THE CORN LAND WHICH THE TRIBES HAD SOLE WHEN DRUNK WITH FIREWATER.



ABE LINCOLN WAS ONE OF THE FIRST TO RESPOND. HE RODE TO THE RALLYING POINT — AT RICHLAND CREEK — ON A HORSE HE HAD BURROWED WITH ONLY SUCH BAGGAGE AS HE COULD TAKE ON.



THERE HIS OLD FRIENDS AND NEIGHBORS CROWDED AROUND HIM---IN HIGH SPIRITS---LOOKING FORWARD TO THE INDIAN FIGHTING AS AN ADVENTURE, THEY WERE GOING TO VOTE FOR A LEADER.



THE VOTING WAS DONE IN MUCH THE SAME WAY AS BOYS TODAY CHOOSE A LEADER. THE TWO CANDIDATES, LINCOLN AND KIRKPATRICK, STOOD APART, WAITING FOR THE MEN TO MOVE.



KIRKPATRICK WAS NOW LEFT STANDING ALONE, ALTHOUGH HE SEEMS TO HAVE TAKEN HIS DEFEAT LIKE A MAN. LATER LINCOLN APPOINTED HIM AN OFFICER.



IN RAGGED FORMATION, IN SINGLE FILE MARCHING BEHINDS OWN, THEIR BAGGAGE WAS WHATEVER THEY COULD CARRY. THEY JOKED AND LAUGHED AND STRAGGLED ALONG THE ROAD.



WHEN THEY REACHED BEARSTOWN THEY FOUND MANY HUNDREDS OF RECRUITS. AND NOT MUCH CHOICE OF CAMP GROUNDS THERE WAS AN ARGUMENT BETWEEN LINCOLN AND ANOTHER CAPTAIN.



IT WAS SETTLED BY A WRESTLING MATCH IN FRONTIER STYLE. LINCOLN'S OPPONENT, L. D. THOMPSON, WAS A MAN OF TREMENDOUS STRENGTH AND SOME SKILL AS WELL.



EACH COMPANY BET ON ITS CHAMPION-- LINCOLN'S MEN WERE FURIOUS WHEN HE WAS THROWN-- TWICE-- BUT LEFT-WARDS LINCOLN CALMED THEM, DECLARING THOMPSON HAD WON FAIRLY.



URING THE DREARY DAYS OF WAITING IN CAMP, LINCOLN GAVE HIS MEN THE FIRST TASTE OF MILITARY DRILL-- IT WAS A DISAPPOINTING TASTE, TOO, AND NOBODY LIKED IT.



IN A PINCH ARE LINCOLN'S SENSE OF HUMOR COULD ALWAYS BE COUNTED ON. HOWEVER ONE DAY AT A GATE HE FORGOT THE PROPER ORDERS TO CHANGE PLATOON FRONT TO COLUMN OF TWOS.



HE SAID ABLY WHEN A SOLDIER IN THIS COMPANY, HE DECLARED WAS DISMISSED FOR TWO MINUTES, WHEN IT WILL FALL IN ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THE GATE-- THE MEN CHUCKLED--- AND OBEYED.



BY THE END OF THE MONTH, MUCKETS AND BAYONETS WERE SOLD TO THE RECRUITS, AND THE HOPE OF REAL ACTION STOPPED MOST OF THE GRUMBLING BUT WAR WAS STILL A LONG WAY OFF.



AT LAST THEY WERE IN THE MARCH, HEADING FOR ROCK RIVER. THEY MARCHED FOR DAYS, WITHOUT MUCH ATTEMPT TO KEEP A MILITARY FORMATION OR APPEARANCE.



THEY STOPPED WHEREVER NIGHT FOUND THEM, COOKED WHAT FOOD THEY HAD, AND SLEPT ON THE GROUND, WHICH WAS OFTEN DAMP. LINCOLN WORE A SWORD AND PISTOL--- OFFICER'S WEAPONS.



ON REACHING THE ROCK RIVER THE MILITIA PLOWED THEIR WAY THROUGH A SWAMP FOR TWENTY-SIX MILES! IT WAS MISERABLE, EXHAUSTING WORK--- ESPECIALLY WHEN THE WAGONS BOGGED DOWN.



AT DIXON'S FERRY, MILITIAMEN CHARGED SOME INDIAN CAVALRY AFTER SUNSET -- ACTING WITHOUT ORDERS, AND GIVING EVERY ADVANTAGE TO THE ENEMY. LINCOLN HEARD ABOUT IT LATER.



LINCOLN'S COMPANY WAS PART OF THE FORCE WHICH CAME NEXT DAY TO BURY THE DOZEN DEAD MILITIAMEN WHOM THE INDIANS HAD SCALPED. THIS WAS REALLY WAR!



JACK IN CAMP LINCOLN WAS JUST IN TIME TO SAVE THE LIFE OF AN ELDERLY INDIAN WHO HAD BEEN JUMPED BY THE TROOPS-- ALTHOUGH HE WAS CARRYING A SAFE CONDUCT PASS FROM THE GENERAL.



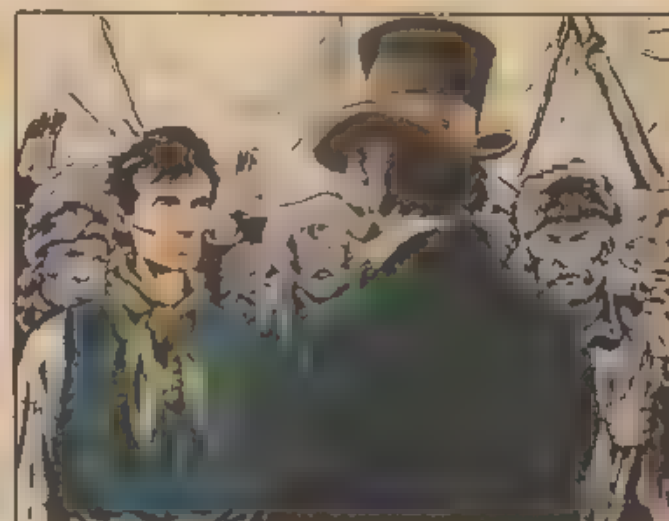
WHEN THE MOB DEFIED LINCOLN, CALLING INSULTS, THE YOUNG CAPTAIN RETORTED "I'LL FIGHT YOU ALL. TAKE IT OUT OF ME IF YOU CAN--- BUT YOU CAN'T TOUCH THIS INJURY."



MEANWHILE MORE INDIAN ATTACKS ON LONELY CABINS WERE BEING MADE. THE INDIANS STRUCK AT PLACES FAR FROM MILITARY CAMPS--- AND WERE GONE AGAIN LIKE SHADOWS.



THUS FAR, THE HUNDREDS OF MILITIAMEN WHO HAD ENLISTED TO DEFEND THEIR FELLOW SETTLERS HAD NOT HAD A CHANCE TO FIRE A SHOT. THEY WERE DISGUISED AND READY TO MURDER.



MATTERS GOT SO BAD THAT THE GOVERNOR CALLED THE CAPTAINS OF THE MILITARY IN TO VOTE ON WHETHER TO KEEP ON AFTER BLACK HAWK OR NOT. HALF OF THEM VOTED TO GO HOME.



AT OTTAWA, CAPTAIN LINCOLN'S COMPANY WAS AMONG THOSE DISCHARGED FROM THE FEDERAL SERVICE. ON HIS MUSTER ROLL HE NOTED THAT THREE MILITIAMEN WERE 'A W O L'.



NEAR THE END OF MAY, LINCOLN BECAME A PRIVATE IN THE MOUNTED RANGERS. OTHER PRIVATES IN THIS OUTFIT WERE FORMERLY OFFICERS UP TO THE RANK OF GENERAL.



THE RANGERS COMPANY WAS MUSTERED OUT WITHIN A MATTER OF DAYS--- AND THE 25TH OF JUNE SAW ABE LINCOLN, A PRIVATE IN CAPTAIN EARLY'S SPY CORPS, MARCHING ALL NIGHT.



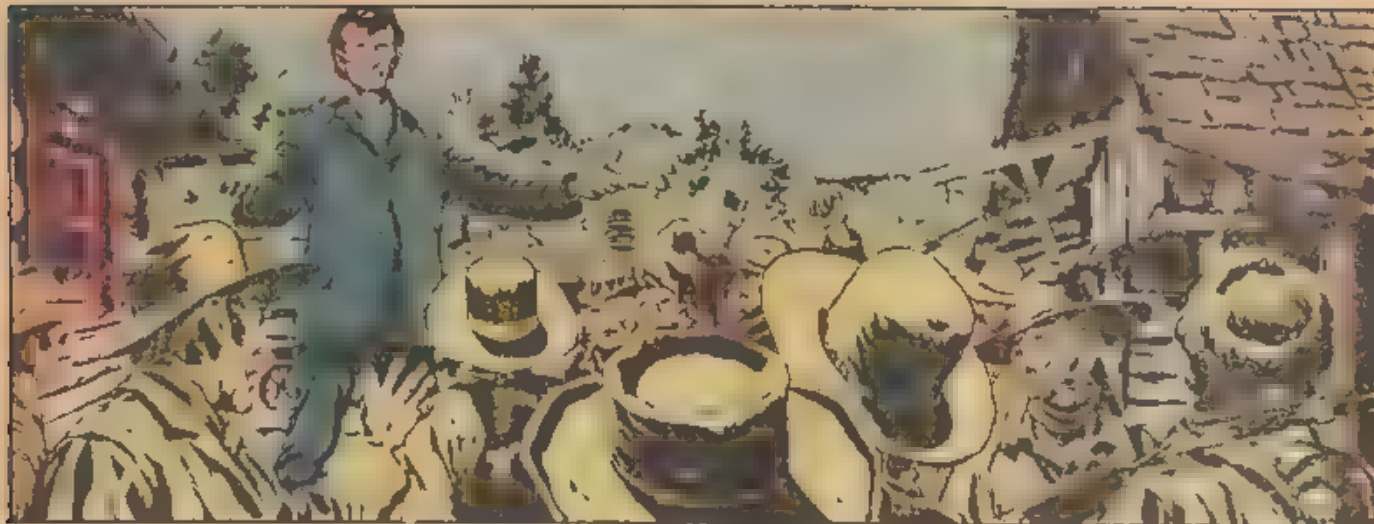
DAYLIGHT FOUND HIM GOING GRAVES ON A BATTLE FIELD LOST BY ANOTHER MILITIA OUTFIT... THE SASK INDIANS HAD JUMPED A SMALL DETAIL AND SCATTERED THEM, KILLING FIVE.



SHOVELS WERE MORE USEFUL TO THIS THIRD OUTFIT THAN WERE RIFLES. MIDSUMMER FOUND LINCOLN HELPING TO BUILD BREASTWORKS BEYOND THE MICHIGAN BORDER.



BEFORE THE MIDDLE OF JULY, LINCOLN FOUND HIMSELF A PRIVATE CITIZEN AGAIN--- HIS COMPANY DISCHARGED, HIS HORSE STOLEN. WITH ONE COMPANION, HE HIKED TO PEORIA.



BACK HOME, ABE LINCOLN CAMPAIGNED THROUGH SANGAMEN COUNTY FOR ELECTION TO THE ILLINOIS LEGISLATURE. HIS AUDIENCES WERE VILLAGE CROWDS, FUGGED OUTSPOKEN.



OFTEN, FIGHTS DEVELOPED IN THE MIDDLE OF A SPEECH. ON ONE SUCH OCCASION, THE CROWD WAS PAYING MORE ATTENTION TO THE FIGHTERS THAN TO LINCOLN'S SPEECH.



ONE OF THE BATTLEPS WAS A FIGHT AT THE END OF LINCOLN'S AND HE WAS CATCHED BY A CROWD UNTIL ABE FLUNGED THROUGH THE CROWD BY HIS FRIEND AND THE MAN AT THE END.



ABE'S POWERFUL HANDS HOISTED THE MAN INTO THE AIR AND TOSSED HIM ASIDE---ENDING THE QUARREL, AND WINNING FOR ABE THE ADMIRATION OF MORE VOTERS.



TO CONVINCE THE FARM VOTERS THAT HE WAS STILL ONE OF THE BROWN KIND, ABE MIXED FELD LABOR WITH SPEECHES. ONE OF HIS HUGE FORKFULS COULD BURY A MAN ON THE LOAD.



BACKWOODS FUN

"HUCKING DEES" WERE ALWAYS SURE TO DRAW A CROWD OF YOUNG PEOPLE. THE HIGH POINTS OF THE DAY OR EVENING WERE WHEN FINDING A RED EAR PERMITTED BOY TO KISS GIRL.



A LESS EXCITING BUT POPULAR GATHERING WAS THE QUILTING PARTY, WHERE THE GIRLS WORKED ON THE MAKING OF A QUILT TOGETHER -- AND THE "BEAUS" WAITED TO SEE THEM HOME.



AT HOLIDAY GATHERINGS, A FAVORITE SPORT WAS "CATCHING THE GREASED PIG." SOME TIMES A STRONG AND CLEVER MAN COULD DO IT -- FOR A PRIZE -- BUT EVERYBODY HAD A GOOD TIME.



WRESTLING OF NO MANAGER WAS ALWAYS SURE TO DRAW A CROWD. ABRAHAM LINCOLN EXCELLED AT THIS. BACKWOODS CAME. WRESTLING SETTLED ARGUMENTS, WON VOTES.



PULLING CONTESTS WERE STAGED ON FAIR DAYS BETWEEN "YOKES" OR TEAMS OF OXEN -- GENERALLY FOR A PRIZE. SOMETIMES THEY PULLED AGAINST EACH OTHER, SOMETIMES ON HEAVY LOADS.

LINCOLN'S STORE



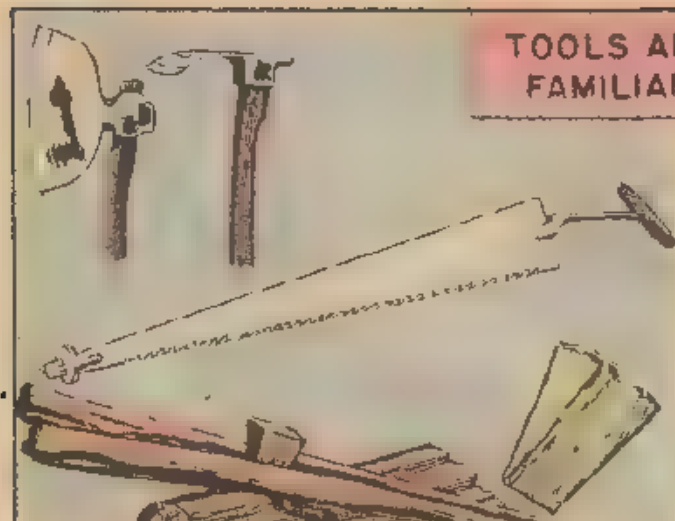
IN LINCOLN'S TWENTY-FOURTH YEAR, HE BORROWED MONEY TO OPEN A STORE IN PARTNERSHIP WITH YOUNG WILLIAM BERRY. IT CARRIED GENERAL MERCHANDISE, BUT SOON PETERED OUT ONLY THE MOST NECESSARY. THEN UTENSILS WERE SOLD—BEAN POTS, IRON AND COPPER POTS OR DOLED TABLEWARE OF COARSE QUALITY—SINCE FEW CUSTOMERS COULD BUY CHINA.



THE GROCERY LIST WAS SIMPLE, TOO: EGGS, BACON, CHEESE, A FEW VEGETABLES. COUNTRY-MADE BUTTER, SUGAR, COFFEE, AND EVEN SALT WERE TOO COSTLY FOR ALL BUT A FEW PATRONS.

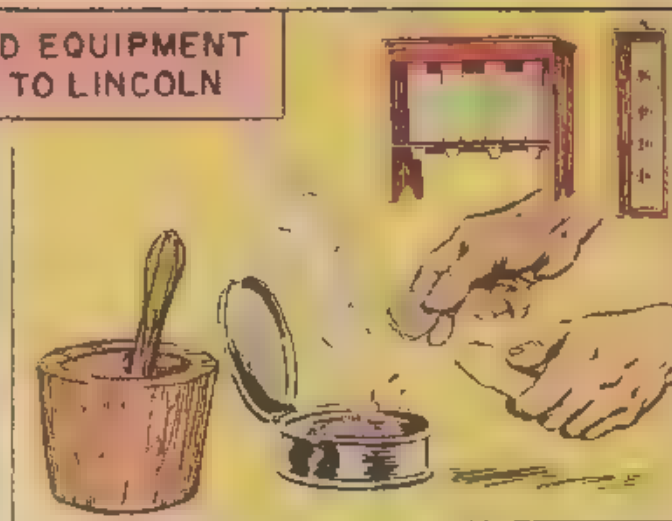


FLINTLOCK RIFLES AND PISTOLS, POWDERHORNS, BULLETS, AND BULLET MOLDS WERE IN STOCK—ALONG WITH LEAD FOR MELTING IN AND POURING INTO THE SPLIT-BULLET MOLDS.



TOOLS AND EQUIPMENT FAMILIAR TO LINCOLN

THE AXE WAS THE TOOL MOST FAMILIAR TO LINCOLN'S HANDS; BUT HE ALSO USED MANY A HARDWOOD WEDGE TO SPLIT LOGS, AN ADZE TO SQUARE THEM AND A WHIPSAW TO MAKE PLANKS



YOUNG ABE SAW CANDLES MADE IN TIN MOLDS -- SPICES GROUND WITH HOMEMADE MORTAR AND PESTLE --- FIRES KINDLED BY STRIKING FLINT AGAINST STEEL, THE SPARKS FALLING ON TINDER



MANY A MILE YOUNG LINCOLN TRUDGED BEHIND AN OLD-FASHIONED, OX-DRAWN PLOW, MADE BY SOME LOCAL BLACKSMITH AND CARPENTER. HE SOLD SUCH PLOWS IN HIS SHORT-LIVED STORE.



A FROE WAS BETTER THAN AN AXE FOR SPLITTING SHAKES AND SHINGLES FROM A BLOCK. OTHER SIMPLE BUT MUCH NEEDED TOOLS OF THE PIONEER WERE PLANES, DRAW-KNIVES AND AUGERS



AMONG THE NECESSARY HOUSEHOLD ITEMS WERE STEELYARDS AND BUTTER CHURNS. THE CHURNS WERE KEG SHAPED AND HAD A CURVED DISK ATTACHED TO A STICK THAT MOVED THROUGH THE LID.



THE OX YOKE WAS HOMEMADE, LIKE THE BLACKSNAKE WHIP, WHOSE LASH COULD CUT LIKE A KNIFE IN THE HANDS OF AN EXPERT--- THE SHOE PLATES WERE FITTED ON THE SPLIT HOOF OF OXEN.

TOWN HOUSE FURNISHINGS



THE FURNITURE OF LINCOLN'S SPRINGFIELD HOME WAS TYPICAL OF THE BETTER TOWN HOUSES OF THE PERIOD. MUCH OF IT, LIKE THIS PARLOR TABLE WAS GRACEFUL AND PLEASING



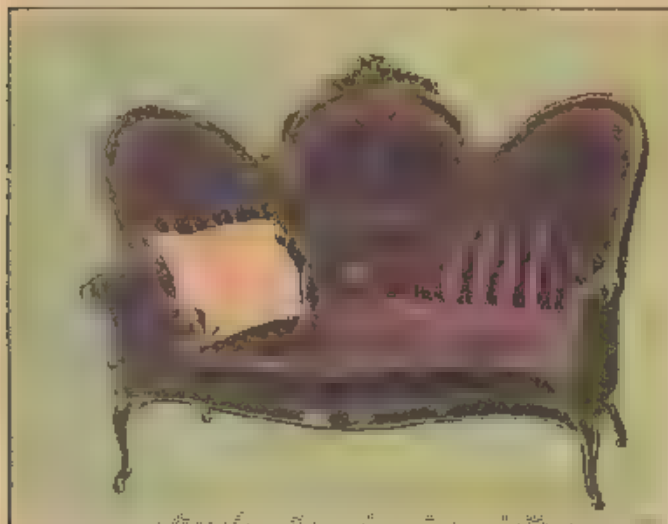
PEAR BACK CHAIRS AND ROCKERS LIKE THESE WERE UPHOLSTERED IN HAIRCLOTH, BLACK HORSEHAIR WOVEN TIGHTLY. THE MATERIAL WORE WELL, SHOWED NO SOIL MARKS AND WAS VERY SLIPPERY



CAST IRON STOVES WERE JUST COMING INTO STYLE, REPLACING THE FIREPLACE FOR SPACE HEATING IN WELL-TO-DO HOMES. THEY WERE HIGHLY ORNAMENTED -- AND LIKELY TO CRACK.



THE "WHAT-NOT" OF MANY SHELVES WAS A MUST IN THE WELL FURNISHED LIVING ROOM. IT HELD BOOKS, KNICK-KNACKS, FIGURINES, VASES, FRAMED PICTURES AND --- WHAT NOT!



THE SOFA WAS SOMETIMES USED FOR LOUNGING, BUT AT THE USER'S PREFERENCE, FOR IT WAS HARD AND NARROW, MADE FOR SITTING BOLT UPRIGHT. PILLOWS COULD SOFTEN ITS ANGLES.



PEDESTAL TABLES WERE IN STYLE, AND TOOK VARIOUS SHAPES. THEY WERE MADE LOCALLY, TO ORDER. SOMETIMES THEY HAD ONE DRAWER --- SOMETIMES TWO, SOMETIMES NONE.



GENTEEL CLOTHING

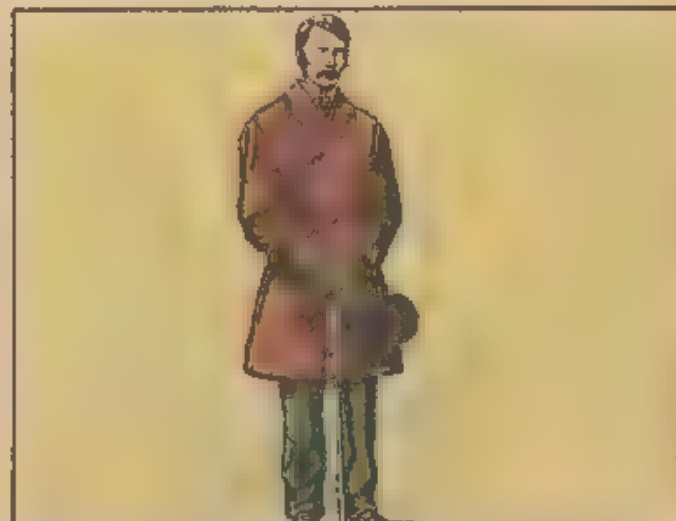


WELL DRESSED MEN OFTEN WORE THE PRINCE ALBERT COAT, WITH OR WITHOUT MATCHING TROUSERS, A SILK WAISTCOAT, BOW TIE OR SILK STOCK. SHORT JACKETS WERE PROPER, TOO.

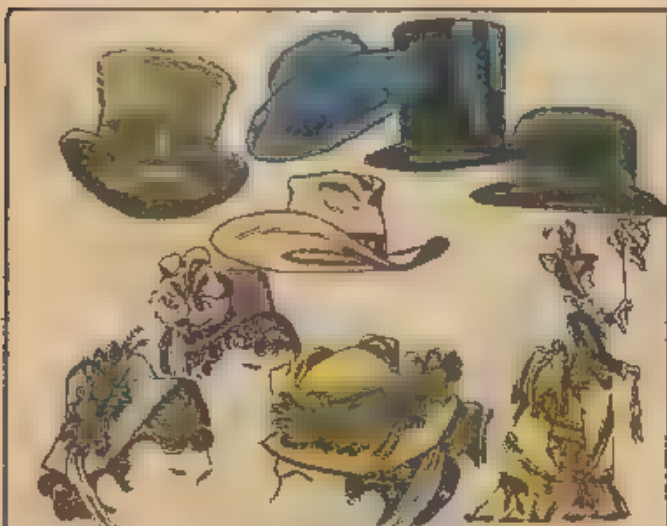
LADIES DRESSES WERE MOSTLY PLAIN COLORED WITH HIGH NECKS, LONG SLEEVES AND BILLOWY SKIRT. THESE WERE THE DAYS OF CRINOLINE (A STIFF LINEN-AND-HORSEHAIR!)



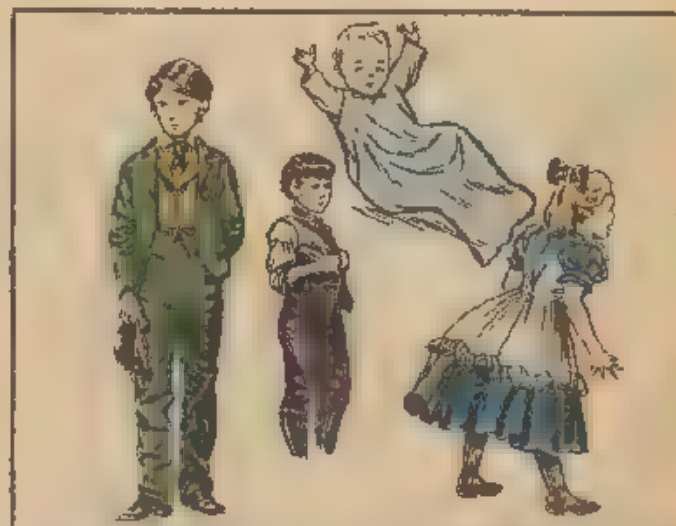
AND THE HOOP SKIRT! THIS ELEGANT BALL DRESS WAS PLAIN COMPARED WITH SOME SEEN AT LINCOLN'S INAUGURAL BALL. THEY TRAILED ON THE FLOOR, AND WALKING IN ONE WAS AN ART.



A MAN'S GREATCOAT OR OVERCOAT WAS RATHER SNUG FITTING, AND THE CUT VERY DIFFERENT FROM TODAY'S. FOR A BIT OF EXTRA WARMTH---(INDOORS OR OUT---LINCOLN WORE A SHAWL.

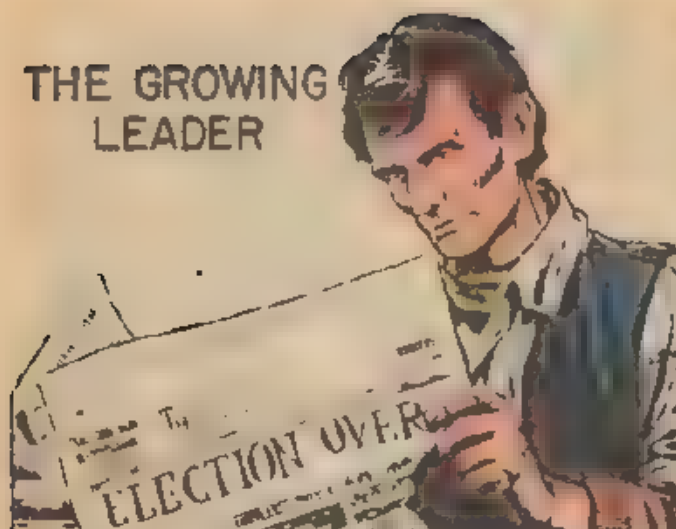


THE STYLE OF MEN'S HATS WAS VERY GENERAL FOR FORMAL AND BUSINESS OCCASIONS. ESPECIALLY IN THE NORTH, THE "STOVE-PIPE" WAS A MUST. --- LADIES WORE BONNETS.



BABIES' DRESSES, IF AT ALL ELEGANT, WERE MADE TO HANG TWO FEET OR MORE BELOW THE INFANT'S FEET. ---YOUNG BOYS AND GIRLS DRESSED LIKE SMALL COPIES OF THEIR PARENTS.

THE GROWING LEADER



LINCOLN LOS THE ELECTION, PLACING EIGHTH ON A LIST OF THIRTEEN CANDIDATES---THOUGH HIS OWN HOME TOWN HAD VOTED ALMOST SOLIDLY FOR HIM. HE FELT HE HAD LET THEM DOWN.



NOW HE WAS OUT OF A JOB. HE HAD NO TRADE, NO PROFESSION. HE KNEW THAT PIONEER FARMING OFFERED NO FUTURE. TO BE A LAWYER WAS HIS DREAM, BUT THAT TOOK EDUCATION.



HE BOUGHT A SECOND HAND VOLUME OF THE FAMOUS LAW "COMMENTARIES" BY SIR WILLIAM BLACKSTONE, AND ABSORBED IT AS A SPONGE ABSORBS WATER--WHILE DOING VARIOUS CHORES.



THE NEXT YEAR, LINCOLN BECAME NEW SALEM'S POSTMASTER. THE MAIL CAME TWICE A WEEK, AND THE PERSON WHO RECEIVED A LETTER PAID FOR IT---SO MUCH A SHEET OF PAPER!



THE POSTMASTER'S JOB WOULD JUST ABOUT BUY LINCOLN'S WORK CLOTHES FOR A YEAR---SO HE EARNED OUT A LIVING AT RAIL SPLITTING AND OTHER ODD JOBS AS THEY CAME ALONG...



---UNTIL THAT AUTUMN, WHEN HE WENT TO WORK FOR THE COUNTY SURVEYOR. THIS TOOK MANY WEEKS OF STUDYING NOT JUST SURVEYING, BUT GEOMETRY AND TRIGONOMETRY, TOO.



ONE DAY HE CAME TO THE CABIN OF HIS OLD FRIEND, JACK ARMSTRONG AND PRESENTED JACK'S WIFE, HANNAH, WITH TWO TANNED BUCKSKINS--- "TO FIX MY PANTS FOR ME. HE EXPLAINED,



SO, WHILE HE MUNCHES CORN PONE AND MENDS THE BABY--- HIS LEGS WRAPPED IN WHATEVER WAS HANDY--- HANNAH SEWED THE 'FOXING' LEATHER ONTO LINCOLN'S ONLY PAIR OF PANTS.



THE ADDED BUCKSKIN WAS TO KEEP LINCOLN'S PANTS FROM BEING TORN BY BRUSH WHILE SURVEYING. HANNAH MADE SHIRTS FOR HIM, TOO--- AND JACK BOARDED HIM FREE FOR WEEKS.



IN A COUNTRY WHERE POVERTY WAS THE RULE, LINCOLN WAS AS READY TO GIVE AS TO TAKE. THAT SAME WINTER HE MET A YOUNG MAN CHOPPING WOOD IN THE SNOW, WITH NO SHOES.



"AB, YOUR FEET ARE COLD IN THOSE RAGS," LINCOLN SAID, REACHING FOR THE AXE. "BUT I'M CHOPPING FIREWOOD TO BUY SOME SHOES." THE YOUNG MAN REPLIED, EARNESTLY.



"GO ON INTO THE STORE AND GET THOSE FEET WARM. LINCOLN ORDERED. "THEN PICK OUT YOUR SHOES." THEY'LL BE ALL PAID FOR."



LINCOLN BECAME KNOWN FOR THE ACCURACY OF HIS SURVEY LINES, BUT ONCE, WHILE PLOTTING THE NEW TOWN OF PETERSBURG, ILLINOIS, HE DELIBERATELY RAN ONE LINE WRONG, BY SEVERAL FEET.



"MCGUIRE, HE TOLD THE BOY WHO WAS HELPING HIM, "I'LL RUN THE STREET RIGHT THROUGH, IT WILL CUT THE END OFF THIS POOR WIDOW'S HOUSE." SO I'LL SKEW THE LINE A BIT, AND MISS HER."



BETWEEN SURVEYING JOBS, LINCOLN HELPED STOREKEEPERS AND DID ODD JOBS. HE ALWAYS PREFERRED WAITING ON MEN AND AVOIDED WOMEN --- ESPECIALLY YOUNG ONES.



THERE WAS ONE EXCEPTION, HOWEVER. AS OFTEN AS HE COULD, WHEN HOME FROM LONG SURVEYING TRIPS, HE VISITED THE TWO-FAMILY LOG HOUSE OF THE CAMRONS AND THE RUTLEDGES.



THE ATTRACTION WAS ANN RUTLEDGE AT WHOSE FATHER'S TAVERN LINCOLN HAD BOARDED IN THE FAMILY'S MORE PROSPEROUS DAYS. AT THAT TIME ANN WAS TO MARRY JOHN McNAMAR.



BUT ANN HAD NOT HEARD FROM JOHN FOR NEARLY TWO YEARS. THOUGH HE OWNED MUCH PROPERTY AROUND NEW SALEM HE HAD VANISHED ON A TRIP TO THE EAST. ANN STILL WAITED.



IN THOSE TWO YEARS OF SILENCE FROM HER FIANCE, THERE'S NO DOUBT THAT BETWEEN ANN AND ABE LINCOLN A DEEP AND WARM UNDERSTANDING HAD GROWN. ANN NEEDED FRIENDSHIP.



THEY COULD HAVE BEEN IN LOVE. BUT ABE HAD ONLY DEBTS, WHILE JOHN McNAMAR OWNED MUCH PROPERTY. AND THE VANISHED JOHN HAD NOT RELEASED ANN FROM HER PROMISE TO MARRY HIM.



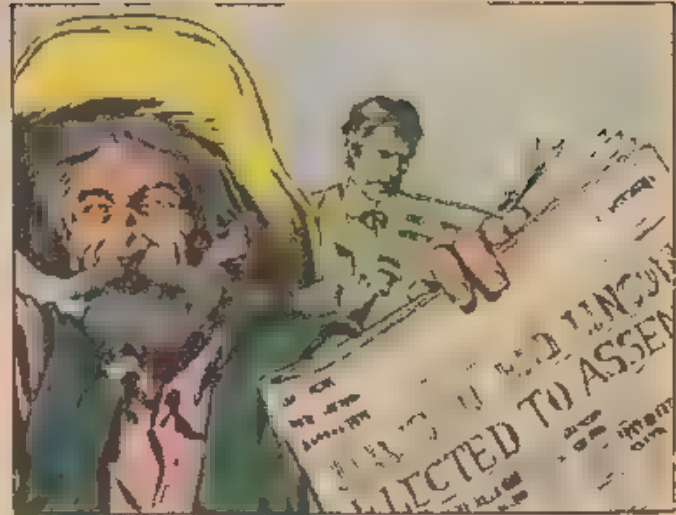
HISTORY RECORDS NO LOVE SCENES OR OTHER SHED LETTERS BETWEEN THEM --- ONLY THAT THEY MEANT A GREAT DEAL TO EACH OTHER, AND THAT THE NEIGHBORS HONORED THEM.



ABE DID NOT MISS A CHANCE TO HEAR ANN SING. THERE WAS ONE HYMN SHE SANG WHICH WAS HIS FAVORITE --- A HYMN WHICH SPOKE OF FOND AMBITIONS HELD IN CHECK.



AT THIS TIME, LINCOLN AGAIN BECAME ACTIVE IN POLITICS, ALONG WITH ENOUGH SURVEYING WORK TO BARELY KEEP HIM GOING. HIS CHIEF OPPONENT WAS STUART, AND HE BEAT HIM.



IN 1834 HE WAS ELECTED TO THE NINTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY. WITH MORE SALARY THAN HE HAD EVER EARNED BEFORE, HE BORROWED MONEY FOR A DECENT SUIT OF CLOTHES AND STAGE FAPE.



THE STAGE COACH BROUGHT LINCOLN TO VANDALIA, THE ILLINOIS STATE CAPITAL---A FRONTIER TOWN OF EIGHT HUNDRED POPULATION WITH ONLY A HANDFUL OF FRAME BUILDINGS AS YET.



HERE, HE SHARED A ROOM WITH STUART, HIS FIRST-
WHILE OPPONENT. AND HERE, AMONG OTHER WHIG
PARTISANS, HE MET THE "LITTLE GANT," STEPHEN
DOUGLAS. LATER HIS RIVAL FOR THE SENATE.



STEPHEN A. DOUGLAS WAS A YOUNG MAN TO REMEM-
BER. A BRILLIANT FORCEFUL SPEAKER. AFERY
PERSONALITY, HE WAS VERY SHORT OF STATURE,
AND THICKSET WITH A LARGE HEAD.



DECEMBER 1ST THE HOUSE MET IN A BIG ROOM THAT CEILING PLASTER HAD FALLEN FROM IN PATCHES. MOST OF THE CONGRESSMEN WERE YOUNG FARMERS--- SOME WERE LAWYERS.



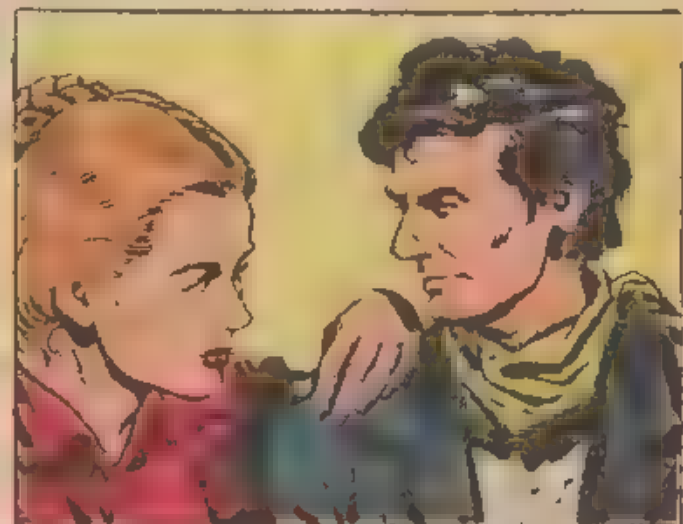
LINCOLN SERVED ON A NUMBER OF COMMITTEES DURING THAT TERM AND MADE SPEECHES WHICH NEVER FAILED TO HOLD HIS HEARERS ATTENTIVE. AT LEAST ONCE HE HAD THEM ALL LAUGHING HARD.



BY MID FEBRUARY HE WAS BACK AT NEW SALEM WORKING AT SURVEYING FOR THE YOUNG POLITICIAN. STILL NEEDED MONEY TO PAY FOR HIS BOARD AND KEEP.



ANN RUTLEDGE HAD GONE TO WORK FOR A NEIGHBORING FARMER TO SAVE MONEY FOR HER TUITION AT THE JACKSONVILLE FEMALE ACADEMY. LIKE ABE, SHE HAD AMBITION AND LOVE OF LEARNING.



NEITHER SHE NOR ABE LINCOLN HAD MUCH TIME FOR VISITING--- IT WAS A SEVEN OR EIGHT MILE RIDE OUT TO THE FARM FOR HIM--- BUT SOMETIMES THEY MANAGED AN EVENING TOGETHER.



THAT SUMMER AN EPIDEMIC OF "FEVER 'N AGUE" OR MALARIA STRUCK THE NEW SALEM DISTRICT. IT CAME UPON FARMERS IN THEIR FIELDS AND HOUSEWIVES IN THEIR KITCHENS.



ABE LINCOLN DID NOT ESCAPE THE SICKNESS. LIKE HIS NEIGHBORS, HE DOSED HIMSELF WITH BITTER CINCONA AND BONESET BREW AND OTHER MORE VIOLENT HOME REMEDIES.



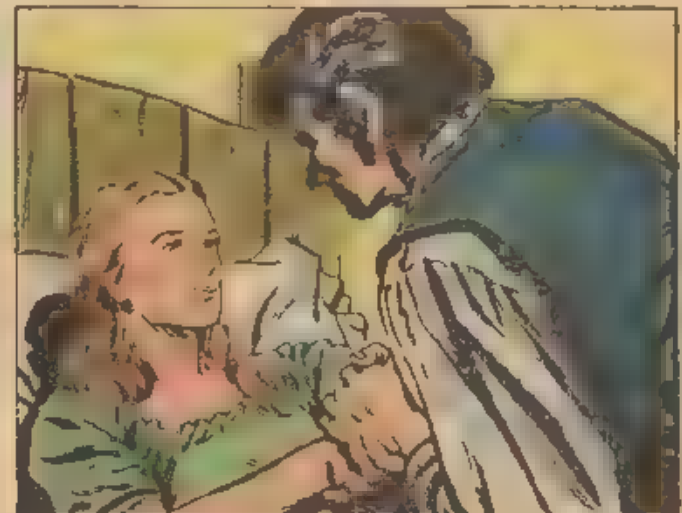
THEY BROUGHT ANN RUTLEDGE HOME, SHAKEN WITH CHILLS AND FEVER, AND PUT HER TO BED. THEY HAD CALLED THE DOCTOR. NEIGHBORS BROUGHT WORD OF IT TO NEW SALEM, MILES AWAY.



HER ILLNESS DID NOT FOLLOW THE FAMILIAR PATTERN. SHE SANK STEADILY, WASTING AWAY. THE DOCTORS COULD THINK OF NOTHING TO TURN THE TIDE.



ANN'S COUSIN CAME ON HORSEBACK TO TELL ABE LINCOLN THAT SHE WAS WORSE, AND HE HAD BETTER COME QUICKLY IF HE WANTED TO SEE HER AGAIN. IT MIGHT BE THE LAST TIME.



ABE RODE BACK WITH HIM--AND THEY LET HIM SEE HER ALONE. THE HEARTBREAK HE FELT WHEN HE SAW WHAT THE SICKNESS HAD DONE TO HER CAN ONLY BE GUESSED.



PROBABLY THEY DID NOT NEED TO SAY MUCH TO EACH OTHER, BECAUSE THEIR UNDERSTANDING WENT DEEP. AND PROBABLY THEY BOTH ACCEPTED THE FACT THAT THIS WAS GOODBYE.



LESS THAN A WEEK LATER THEY LAID ANN RUTLEDGE TO REST IN CONCORD'S FRONTIER CEMETERY - - - AND NOBODY REMEMBERED SEEING ABE LINCOLN AMONG THE MOURNERS.



ABE'S MOURNING WAS A PRIVATE MATTER, BUT McGRADY RUTLEDGE, THE YOUNG COUSIN WHO HAD BROUGHT HIM TO HER BEDSIDE, LATER TOLD THAT "LINCOLN TOOK HER DEATH VERY HARD."



THREE WEEKS AFTER ANN RUTLEDGE'S PASSING, HER VANSHEDFANCE, JOHN McNAMAR, RETURNED TO NEW SALEM WITH HIS MOTHER. HOW THE NEWS OF ANN AFFECTED HIM IS NOT KNOWN.



HOWEVER, JOHN McNAMAR LOST NO TIME IN TELLING ANN'S FAMILY AND THE CAMRONS WHO OCCUPIED THE ADJOINING CABIN, THAT THEY MUST MOVE. McNAMAR OWNED THE PLACE.



LINCOLN RETURNED TO HIS SURVEYING, HIS LAW STUDIES, AND HIS POLITICKING. NONE OF HIS TALK HE COMPLETELY SQUELCHED AN EXPERIENCED MAN WHO HAD ATTACKED HIM.



HE WAS THE TALLEST OF THE WHIG MEMBERS FROM SANGAMON COUNTY, AND BECAME THE R LEADER. THEY WERE JOKE ONLY CALLED 'THE LONG NINE'.



POPULAR, KINDLY, HUMOROUS, KEEN OF WIT, LINCOLN WAS STILL HOWEVER A VICTIM OF HIS OWN BLACK MOODS, SO BLACK THAT HE WAS MORE THAN ONCE AFRAID OF SUCCESS.



ANY PERSON OR ANY ANIMAL AND STRESS HAD HIS IMMEDIATE SYMPATHY. ONE DAY HE WAS RIDING IN HIS BEST CLOTHES WHEN HE SAW A HOG STUCK IN A BOG.



THINKING OF HIS GOOD CLOTHES WHICH HE COULD NOT REPLACE HE RODE ON. BUT HE COULD NOT GET THAT POOR HOG OUT OF HIS MIND. AT LAST HE GAVE IN, WENT BACK --



-- AND ROLLED UP HIS PANTS, WADING IN AFTER THE ANIMAL. CLOTHES OR NO CLOTHES, HE HADN'T THE HEART TO LET EVEN A HOG CHOKE IN THE MUD AS LONG AS HE COULD PREVENT IT.



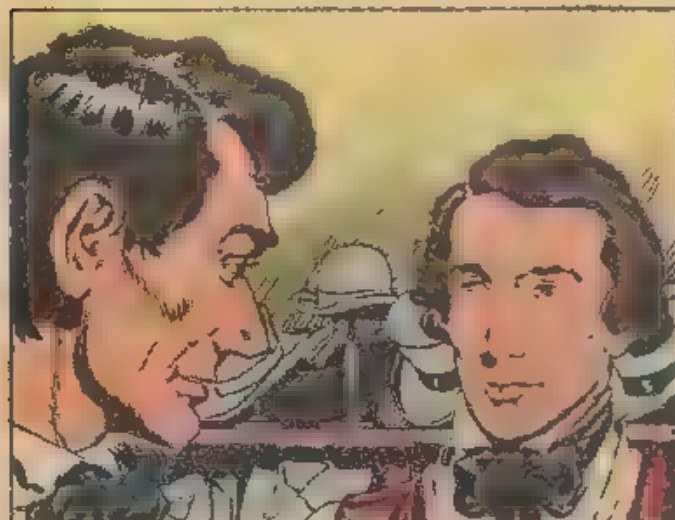
IN THE SPRING OF 1837, LINCOLN CRAMMED HIS FEW BELONGINGS INTO A COUPLE OF PADDLEBACKS AND SET OUT FOR SPRINGFIELD. HE WAS SAYING NEW SALEM FOREVER.



HE WAS LEAVING A PLACE OF FAMILIAR FAJES AND BITTERSWEET MEMORIES FOR THE UNKNOWN LIFE OF A LARGE TOWN---AND A LAW PRACTICE WHICH WAS STILL A CASTLE IN THE AIR



ON REACHING SPRINGFIELD, HE STOPPED AT A STORE WHERE HE HOPED TO BUY SOME BEDCLOTHES ON CREDIT AND CONSIDERING THAT HE DID NOT KNOW THE STOREKEEPER...



--- THIS SHOWED LINCOLN'S CONFIDENCE IN HIS OWN POWER TO PERSUADE! HE KNEW FROM EXPERIENCE THAT MOST PEOPLE LIKED AND TRUSTED HIM AT FIRST SIGHT --- AND SO IT WAS NOW!



HE TOLD SPEED --- THE MAN WHO WAS LATER TO BE HIS CLOSEST FRIEND --- THAT HE WOULD PAY FOR THE BEDCLOTHES BY CHRISTMAS UNLESS HE FAILED TO MAKE A LIVING? SPEED AGREED AND...



EVEN WENT FURTHER, BY TELLING THE HOMELY, GAWKING STRANGER THAT IF HE LIKED HE MIGHT SHARE HIS DOUBLE BED ON THE FLOOR ABOVE, WITH NO RENT TO PAY FOR THE PRESENT.



LUCK WAS WITH LINCOLN FROM THE START! WILLIAM BUTLER, CLERK OF THE CIRCUIT COURT, OFFERED THE YOUNG LAWYER FREE BOARD AT HIS HOME, FOR AS LONG AS HE WANTED,



LINCOLN HAD PLENTY OF WORK, AS IT TURNED OUT! IN PARTNERSHIP WITH HIS FORMER POLITICAL OPPONENT, STUART, HE OCCUPIED AN OFFICE OF SORTS OVER THE CIRCUIT COURTROOM.



LINCOLN TOOK EVERY KIND OF CASE, RANGING FROM SUITS FOR DIVORCE, THROUGH PROPERTY DEEDS AND BUSINESS DOCUMENTS, TO MURDER TRIALS. HE HANDLED MOST OF THEM ALONE...



BECAUSE STUART WAS AWAY MOST OF THE TIME, CAMPAIGNING FOR CONGRESS AGAINST THE "LITTLE GANT," STEPHEN A. DOUGLAS IT WAS A BITTER POLITICAL FIGHT.



TWICE THEY CLINCHED, IN A WELL-MATCHED ROUGH-AND-TUMBLE --- TO THE DELIGHT OF THE CROWD! THE LAST TIME --- DOUGLAS BIT STUART'S THUMB.



IN THE WINTER OF 1841, ABE LINCOLN, ONCE MORE IN THE STATE LEGISLATURE, WAS INTRODUCED TO PRETTY MARY TODD BY HER ARISTOCRATIC BROTHER-IN-LAW, N. W. EDWARDS. AND THAT FIRST MEETING BROKE UP HIS PEACE OF MIND.



MARY TODD WAS A "GOLD CATCH" FOR ANY MAN OF CULTURE. SHE HAD LEARNED GRACEFUL MANNERS AT FINISHING SCHOOL AND SHE SPOKE FRENCH. IN ABE'S EYES SHE SHONE LIKE A STAR.



AND, OF COURSE, THE HOMELY COUNTRY LAWYER COULD NOT HELP CONTRASTING HIMSELF WITH HER, AND WITH THE SOCIAL WORLD WHERE SHE WAS SO PERFECTLY AT HOME. HE BROODED OVER IT.



FOR SEVERAL DAYS HE KEPT TO HIS ROOM, EATING LITTLE OR NOTHING. GRIPPED ALTERNATELY BY LOVESICKNESS AND DESPAIR, HE GREW PALE AND THINNER THAN EVER. HE COULD NOT REST.



BUT LINCOLN CAME BACK, TO IMPROVE HIS ACCOUNTANCE WITH MARY --- WHATEVER AGONY IT COST HIM, SOMETIMES SHE WAS PLEASED TO ENCOURAGE HIM, FOR SHE REALLY LIKED THIS HOMELY MAN.



SHE COULD LIGHT UP HIS WORLD WITH A SMILE OF PLEASURE WHICH WAS TO HIM A ROYAL COMPLIMENT. SHE WAS AS VITALLY CHARMING AS ABE. LINCOLN WAS AWKWARD AND SELF-CONSCIOUS.



BUT HER TEMPER COULD --- AND DID FLARE UP LIKE LIGHTNING OUT OF THE BLUE SKY. AND HER SHARP, BITING WIT COULD STAB AT WEAKNESSES WITH UNFAILING AIM.



THEY BECAME ENGAGED...AND QUARRELLED! MARY TODD'S WAS A WORLD OF PARTIES AND "SOCIAL FUNCTIONS" WHICH LINCOLN BUSY AND AWKWARD COULD SELDOM SHARE.



THEY MADE UP AGAIN...AND AGAIN* BECAUSE THEY WERE TRULY IN LOVE FOR ALL THE DIFFERENCES



BEFORE THE DATE SET FOR THE REWEDDING, MARY AND ABE CALLED THE WHOLE THING OFF! LINCOLN WAS PLUNGED INTO GLOOM* HE WALKED ALONE, WONDERING WHETHER HE LOVED HER OR NOT



EVENTUALLY A MUTUAL FRIEND, MRS SIMEON FRANCIS BROUGHT THE TWO TOGETHER ONCE MORE NOT AS LOVERS BUT AS FRIENDS* THEY MET THERE OFTEN FROM THAT DAY ON



TOGETHER WITH ANOTHER FRIEND, JULIA JAYNE, MARY AND ABE WROTE HUMOROUS ARTICLES FOR THE *SANGAMO JOURNAL*, MAKING FUN OF JAMES SHIELDS, ONE OF LINCOLN'S FELLOW LEGISLATORS



SHIELDS, IRISH BORN AND FULL OF FIGHT, WENT TO THE EDITOR! LINCOLN TOOK RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE ARTICLES, AND SO SHIELDS CHALLENGED HIM TO A DUEL!



THE IDEA OF DUELING SEEMED SILENTLY TO ARISE BUT HE KNEW THAT HIS POLITICAL FUTURE MIGHT DEPEND ON HOW HE HANDLED THE MATTER. HE CHOSE CAVALRY BROADSWORDS.



THE DUEL, HE DECIDED, WOULD BE FOUGHT OVER A PLANK WHICH NEITHER MAN MUST CROSS. THUS THE LONG ARMED LINCOLN COULD KEEP HIS SHORTER ENEMY FROM EVER REACHING HIM!



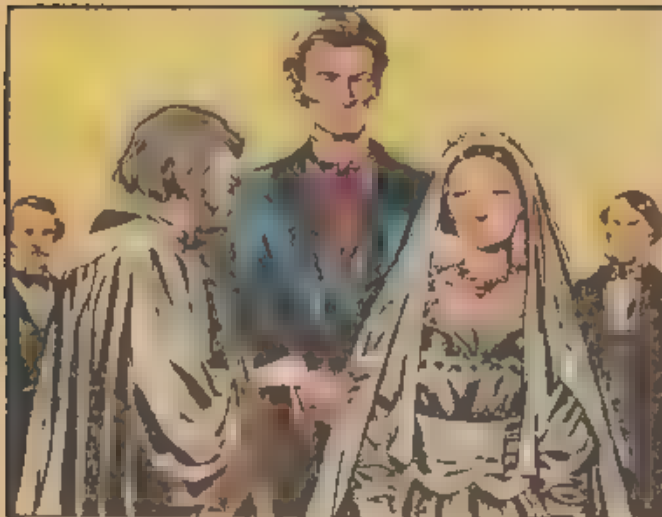
REFUSING TO SEE THE FINNY SIDE OF SUCH A BATTLE, SHIELDS APPROVED AT THE SAND BAR --- AND THE SECONDUS WENT INTO A HURDLE, WHILE LINCOLN PRACTICED FEROCIOUS CUTS AND SLASHES.



OF COURSE SUCH A FIGHT FIT TOOK PLACE COULD ONLY MAKE SHIELDS LOOK MORE REDUCED. IN THE END, TO SAVE HIS WIFE WOULD BE ENEMY'S PRIDE, LINCOLN'S GAINED A SORT OF APOLOGY.



THE DUEL WHICH NEVER CAME OFF DID LINCOLN NO DAMAGE IN MARY TODD'S EYES -- FOR THEY SOON BECAME ENGAGED ONCE MORE. THIS TIME, HOWEVER, THEY AGREED TO BE MARRIED QUICKLY.
AL 91-583 (45)



ON NOVEMBER 4, 1842, THEY BECAME MAN AND WIFE IN A CEREMONY PERFORMED IN THE EDWARDS HOME BY AN EPISCOPALIAN CLERGYMAN. THE RING WAS ENGRAVED "LOVE IS ETERNAL."



FOR THE NEXT YEAR THE LINCOLNS PAID FOUR DOLLARS A WEEK FOR BOARD AND ROOM AT THE GLOBE TAVERN. FOR VERY A REGULAR CHANGE FROM THE LUXURIOUS EDWARDS HOME!



THEIR FIRST CHILD, HARRY EDWARD LINCOLN, ARRIVED THE FOLLOWING AUGUST--- A PROUD DAY FOR THE PARENTS! AT THE LATER THEY BOUGHT A HOME.



BUT AS A COUNTRY LAWYER ON THE EIGHTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT CIRCUIT LINCOLN WAS OFTEN AWAY FROM HOME DAYS AT A TIME TRAVELING IN EVERY KIND OF WEATHER.



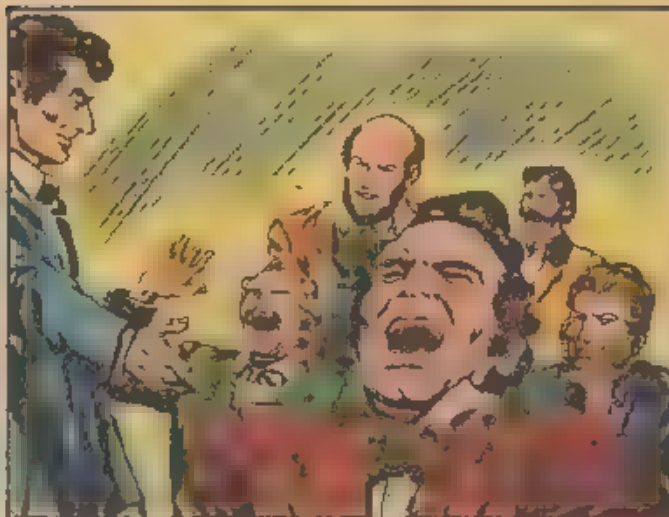
HE KEPT UP HIS DISTRICT COURT PRACTICE UNTIL OCTOBER, 1847 WHEN, ELECTED TO CONGRESS HE STARTED FOR WASHINGTON D.C. WITH MARY AND THEIR TWO SMALL CHILDREN.



IT WAS THE FIRST INTRODUCTION TO A RAILROAD TRAIN FOR NINETEEN MONTHS OLD EDWARD LINCOLN, AND FOUR YEAR OLD ROBERT THIS WAS ADVENTURE "WASHINGTON" WAS JUST A WORD.



SEATED IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, LINCOLN MISSED ONLY SEVEN ROLL CALLS. ONCE HE ADDRESSED THE HOUSE VERY EARNESTLY ON THE DANGERS OF AMENDING THE CONSTITUTION.



AT OTHER TIMES HE COULD AND DID KEEP THE HONORABLE MEMBERS LAUGHING UNTIL THEIR SIDES ACHED AT THE BACKWOODS HUMOR HE USED TO SPICE UP HIS ARGUMENTS.



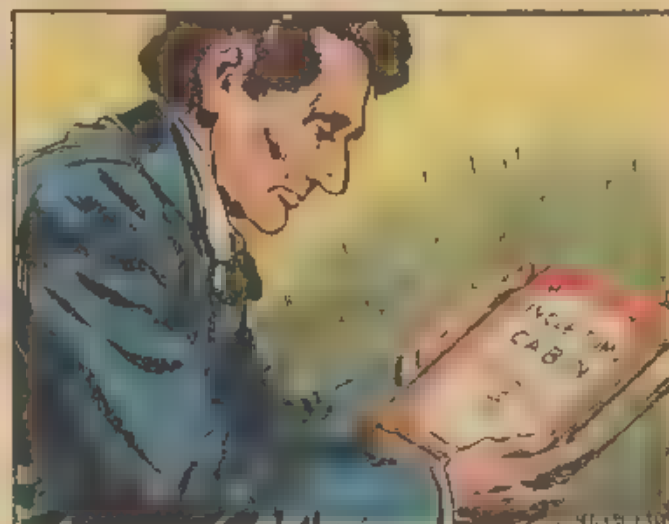
BACK IN SPRINGFIELD TRAGEDY STRUCK THE LINCOLN HOME IN 1850, WITH THE DEATH OF LITTLE EDWARD BAKER LINCOLN. LINCOLN WAS HEART BROKEN - HIS WIFE RUSHED IN SPIRIT.



AFTER THIS BLOW, THEY BECAME CLOSE FRIENDS WITH THE PRESBYTERIAN MINISTER, AND MARY BECAME A MEMBER OF THE CHURCH. LINCOLN DID NOT JOIN BUT HE READ AND MEMORIZED HIS BIBLE.



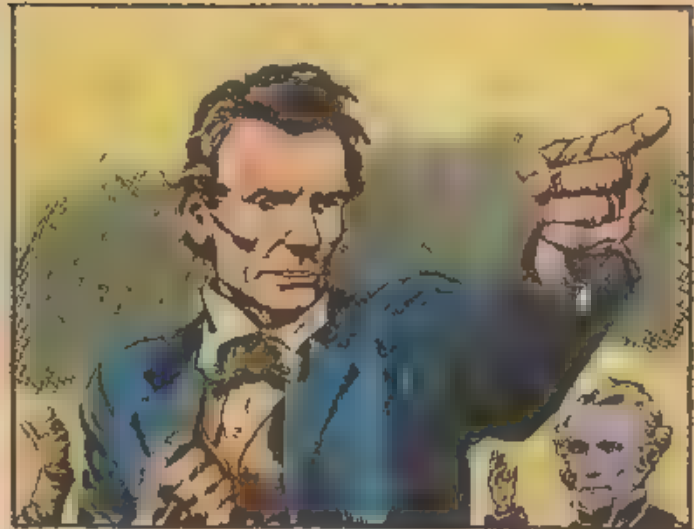
TWO MORE BOYS, WILLIAM AND THOMAS, WERE BORN TO THE LINCOLNS. ABE'S PRACTICE INCREASED HIS INCOME GREW WITH TIME - MARY NO LONGER HAD TO SCIMP.



BUT MEANT ME THE UNITED STATES WAS BEING TORN APART BY THE FLAMING QUESTION OF SLAVERY. 'SHOULD IT BE ALLOWED TO SPREAD, OR NOT?' THE NOVEL 'UNCLE TOM'S CABIN' ADDED FUEL.



LINCOLN, BELIEVING SLAVERY TO BE A MONSTROUS AND EVIL THING, EARLY TOOK HIS STAND AGAINST IT. "WHEREVER IT IS," HE DECLARED, "IT HAS BEEN FIRST INTRODUCED WITHOUT LAW."



IN CONTROLLING THE SPREAD OF SLAVERY HOWEVER, HE DECLARED AT BLOOMINGTON "THE BALLOT IS STRONGER THAN THE BULLET." HE WARNED THE SOUTH IT MUST STAY IN THE UNION.



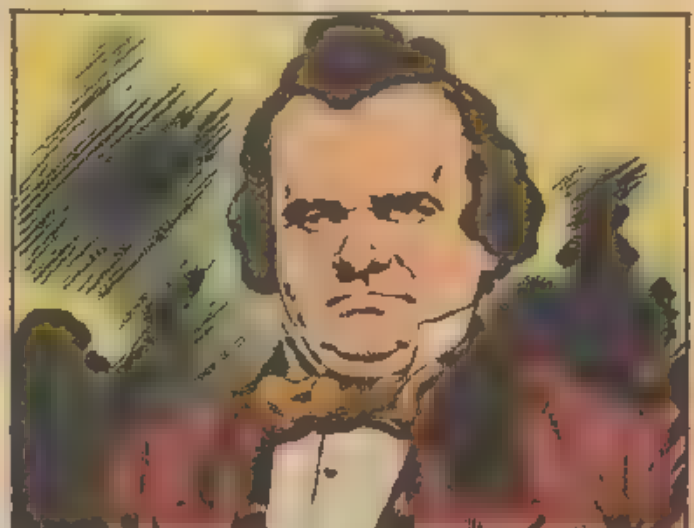
MEANWHILE, ACTS OF VIOLENCE WERE INCREASING.. JOHN BROWN AND HIS SONS MURDERED THE MEN OF THREE PIONEER FAMILIES, IN REVENGE FOR THE KILLING OF FIVE FREE-STATE MEN



THE REGULAR ARMY HAD TO BE CALLED IN TO CONTROL RIOT AND MURDER IN THE STATE OF KANSAS, WHERE PRO-SLAVERY AND ANTI-SLAVERY PARTIES WERE BATTLING IT OUT



CRESTING THE WAVES OF THIS POLITICAL STORM, THE "LITTLE GIANT", STEPHEN A. DOUGLAS, AND "HONEST ABE" LINCOLN OPPOSED EACH OTHER FOR THE UNITED STATES SENATE.



DOUGLAS DECLARED THAT THE PEOPLE OF A UNITED STATES TERRITORY SHOULD "DO AS THEY PLEASE ON THE SUBJECT OF SLAVERY," AND THAT "EACH STATE" SHOULD "MIND ITS OWN BUSINESS"



LINCOLN POINTED OUT THAT SLAVERY WAS TEARING AMERICA APART MORALLY AND POLITICALLY, AND THAT THE UNION COULD NOT CONTINUE TO EXIST, HALF-SLAVE, HALF-FREE.



ON ELECTION DAY, LINCOLN RECEIVED OVER 40% MORE POPULAR VOTES THAN DOUGLAS—BUT DOUGLAS WAS SUPPORTED BY A MAJORITY IN THE LEGISLATURE, AND THIS ELECTED HIM.



ALTHOUGH ANGERED BY THE ELECTORAL RESULT, MARY LINCOLN WAS BY NO MEANS DISCOURAGED. SHE HAD LONG BELIEVED THAT ONE DAY HER HUSBAND WOULD BE PRESIDENT.



THE NEIGHBORHOOD SMALL BOYS, NO LONGER FRIGHTENED WITH MR. LINCOLN'S POLITICAL PUT-POFF, LOOKED ON HIM AS AN OLD FRIEND—ONE ON WHOM IT WAS SAFE TO PLAY JOSES.



THE NEXT MORNING, WHEN LINCOLN GOT UP, THERE WAS A PILE OF LEGAL PAPERS, LETTERS, NOTES, AND WHAT NOT. BUT LINCOLN KEPT UP THE SAME SHOT.



AS HE GOT DOWN TO DELECT THE PAPERS, THE CROWD SWARMED OVER HIM IN PRETENDED ATTACK, YELLING AND LAUGHING. AND LINCOLN LAUGHED WITH THEM, LOVING EVERY YOUNG SCAMP.



FAR AWAY FROM GETTYSBURG, JOHN BROWN PUNCTUATED THE RED-HOT SLAVERY QUESTION AGAIN, INSANE JOHN BROWN AND SOME YOUNG FOLLOWERS CAPTURED THE UNITED STATES ARSENAL AT HARPER'S FERRY, VA.



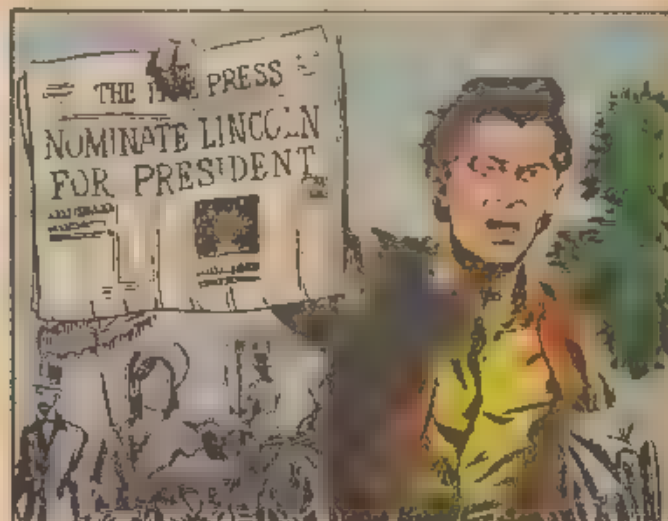
A FEW WHITE SLAVE OWNERS WERE SEIZED, AND THE FRIGHTENED SLAVES HEARD THE BEARDED MADMAN SAYING THAT THIS DAY ALL SLAVES WERE TO BE SET UP AND BE FREE.



TWO DAYS LATER ON OCTOBER 31ST, BRIGADIER GENERAL ROBERT E. LEE AND HIS U.S. MARSHALS PUT AN END TO THE BLOODY RAID WHICH HAD COST FIFTEEN LIVES. JOHN BROWN WAS HANGED.



WHILE NOTED ANTI-SLAVERY WRITERS AND PREACHERS DECLARED JOHN BROWN A HERO, LINCOLN, IN SPEECH AFTER SPEECH, CONDEMNED THE RAID---THOUGH HE SHARED THEIR HATE FOR SLAVERY.



MORE AND MORE OF THE COUNTRY CAME TO KNOW OF LINCOLN'S NAME AND HIS DEEDS. NEWSPAPERS FROM WEST TO EAST BEGAN SUPPORTING HIM FOR THE PRESIDENCY.



AT THE REPUBLICAN CONVENTION IN CHICAGO WHEN LINCOLN'S NAME WAS PROPOSED FIVE THOUSAND VOICES ROSE IN WILD CHEERING. ON THE THIRD BALLOT HE WON WITH 231 1/2 VOTES OUT OF 465.



THAT NIGHT A HUNDRED OF FRIENDS LED BY A BRASS BAND MARCHED TO THE LINCOLN HOME AND YELLED FOR A SPEECH. ALL-NIGHT PARTIES CELEBRATED LINCOLN'S NOMINATION.



ON THE EVENING OF THE GREAT DAY, NOVEMBER 6, 1860, WHILE OTHER CROWDS WERE CHEERING IN THE STREETS LINCOLN CAME HOME TO TELL HIS WIFE "MARY, WE'RE ELECTED!"



IN THE MONTHS WHICH FOLLOWED HE GREW A BEARD AND HAD A STRANGE FEELING OF HIMSELF AS DEAD --- AS HE LAY GAZING ACROSS THE ROOM INTO A MIRROR ON THE BUREAU.



ON FEBRUARY 11, HE STOPPED ON THE REAR PLATFORM OF THE TRAIN WHICH WAS TO TAKE HIM EAST. WITH DEEP FEELING HE ASKED FOR THE PEOPLE'S PRAYERS AND SAID GOOD-BYE.



ON MARCH 4TH, 1861 ON THE PLATFORM ABOVE THE CROWD IN WASHINGTON, ABRAHAM LINCOLN Laid HIS HAND ON THE BIBLE, AND TOOK THE OATH AS PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES.

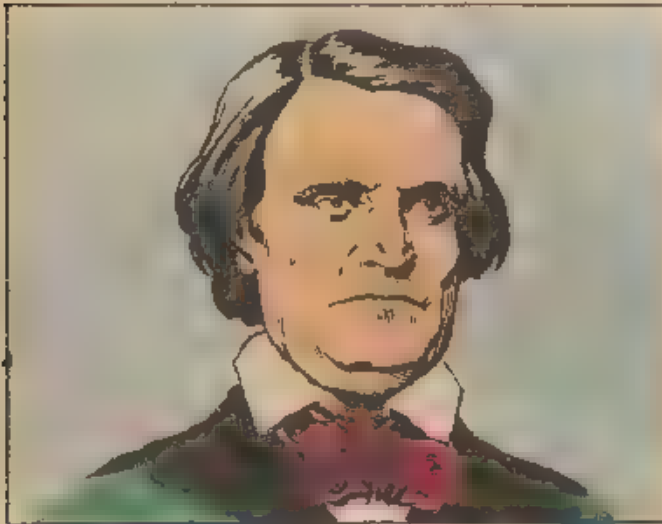
POLITICAL LEADERS



STEPHEN A. DOUGLAS, "THE LITTLE GIANT," BEAT LINCOLN FOR THE SENATE--- BUT LOST TO LINCOLN IN THE PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION.



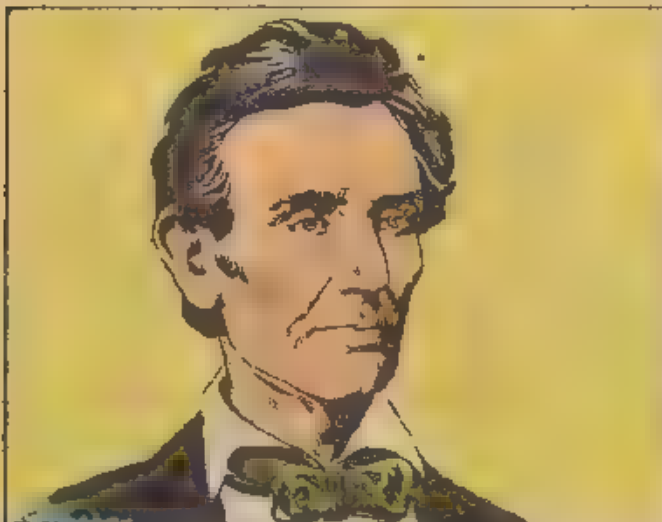
DOUGLAS'S REFUSAL TO BACK SLAVERY SPLIT THE DEMOCRATIC PARTY. HE UPHELD THE TERRITORIES RIGHT OF CHOICE.



JOHN C. BRECKINRIDGE, VICE PRESIDENT OF THE U.S.A. PRESIDING OVER THE SENATE, ANNOUNCED LINCOLN'S ELECTION.



RUNNING AGAINST LINCOLN, BRECKINRIDGE CARRIED ELEVEN OF THE FIFTEEN SLAVERY STATES, WHICH WAS MOST OF THE SOUTH.



ABRAHAM LINCOLN, THE REPUBLICAN PARTY'S CANDIDATE, WISE, KEEN AND KINDLY, SPOKE OUT AGAINST SLAVERY AND SECESSION.



LINCOLN SPOKE TO THE HEARTS OF THE COMMON FOLK, AS ONE OF THEMSELVES... THOSE WHO HATED SLAVERY VOTED FOR HIM, AND WON.

FINE CARRIAGES



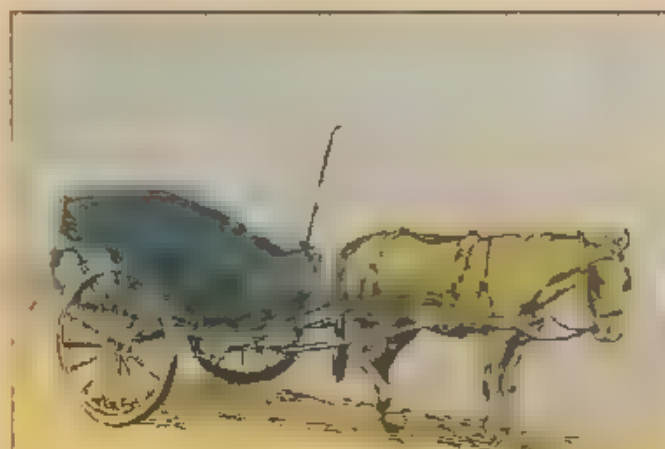
THE CALASH

THE CALASH WAS A LIGHT, FOUR-WHEELED, FOUR-PASSENGER CARRIAGE WITH A TOP WHICH COULD BE FOLDED BACK.



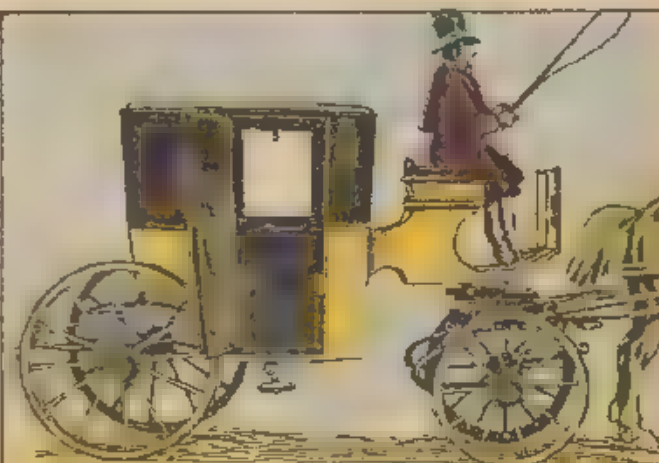
THE VICTORIA

THIS WAS A TWO-PASSENGER, TWO-HORSE CARRIAGE WITH A "CALASH" TOP—A PLEASURE VEHICLE FOR THE WELL-TO-DO.



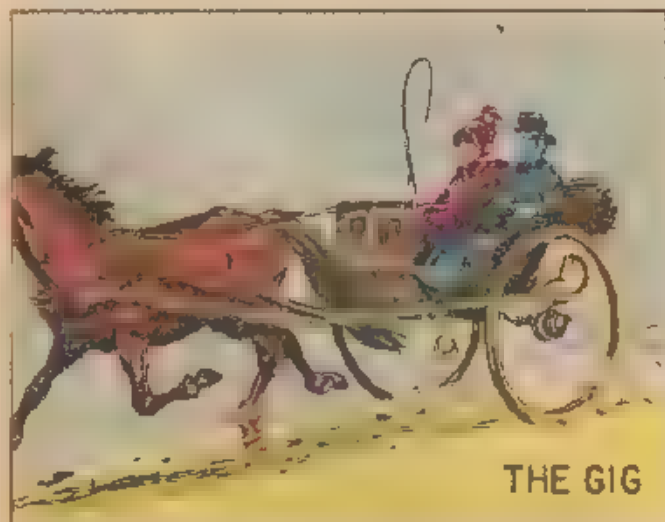
THE CABRIOLET

THIS WAS A LIGHT, ONE-HORSE CARRIAGE WITH A HOOD, SEATING TWO OR FOUR PERSONS... LATER CALLED A "CAB" FOR SHORT.



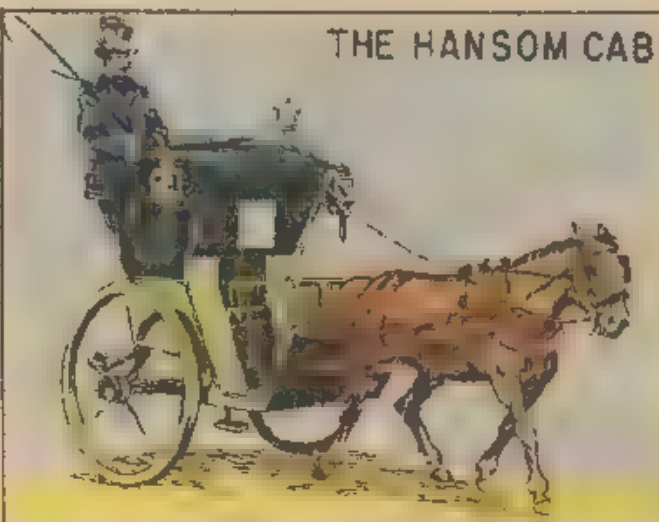
THE BROUGHAM

THIS LIGHT, CLOSED CARRIAGE SEATED TWO OR FOUR PERSONS INSIDE, A DRIVER OUTSIDE, AND WAS BUILT FOR SHORT TURNS.



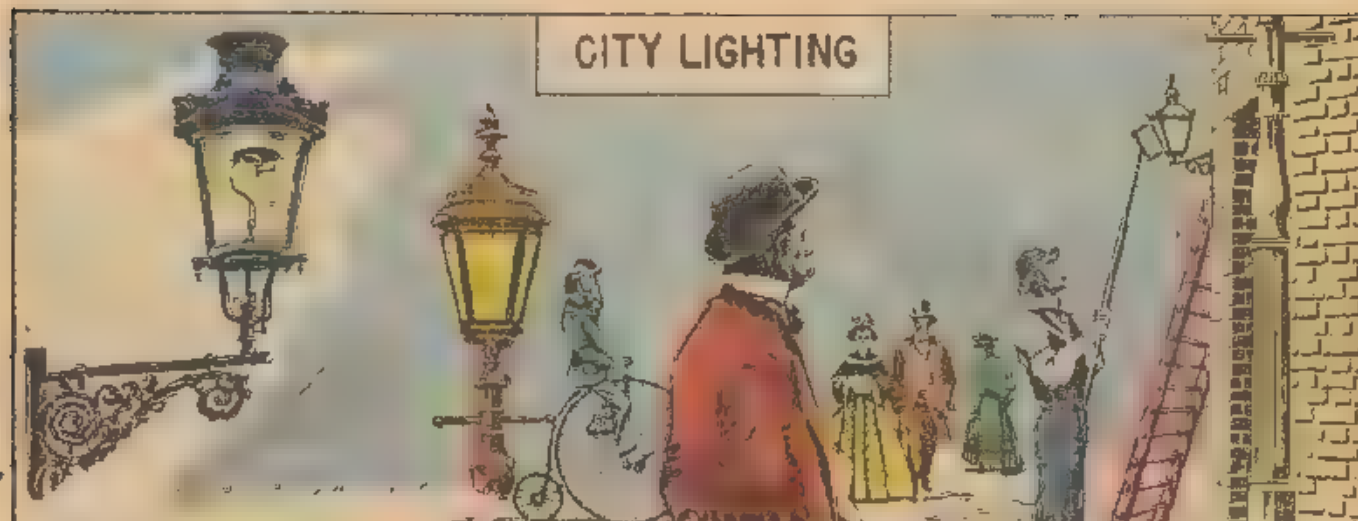
THE GIG

THIS LIGHT TWO-WHEELER COULD GIVE TEEN-AGERS A WILD RIDE, OR MOTHER-IN-LAW A ROUGH ONE, OR WIFE A HAPPY OUTING?

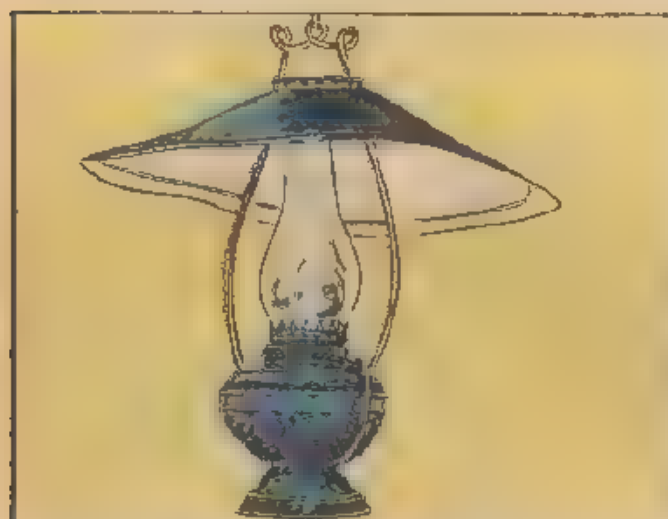


THE HANSOM CAB

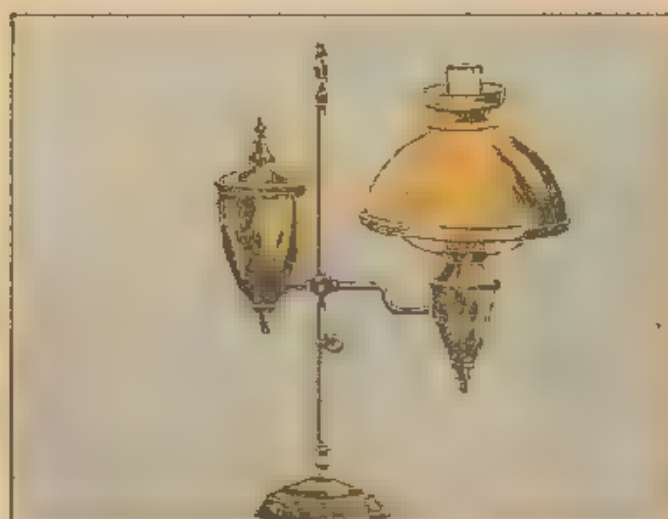
NAMED FOR J.A. HANSOM, ITS INVENTOR, THIS CAB KEPT THE DRIVER, PERCHED BEHIND, FROM PEEKING OR EAVESDROPPING.



LARGE CITIES LIKE WASHINGTON AND BALTIMORE HAD A NUMBER OF STREETS LIGHTED BY GAS. THEY WERE SERVICED BY LAMPLIGHTERS WHO WENT AROUND NIGHT AND MORNING WITH LADDERS AND TAPERS.



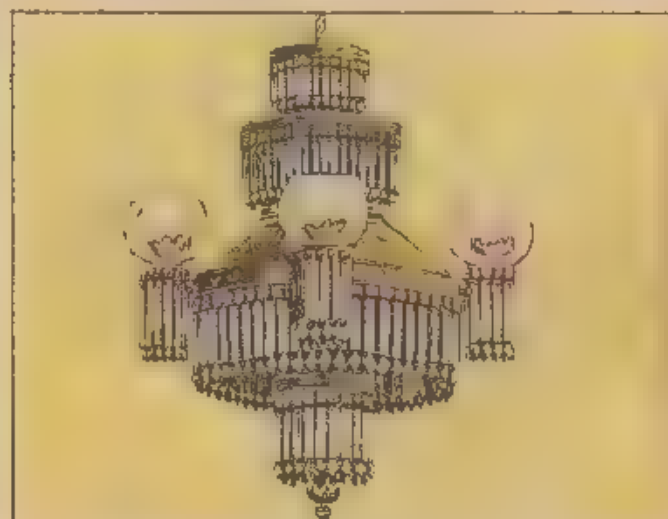
OIL-BURNING HANGING LAMPS LIKE THESE WERE USED IN ORDINARY PUBLIC ROOMS WHERE LIGHT, NOT BEAUTY, WAS THE OBJECT.



THE READING LAMP--WITH AN ELEVATED RESERVOIR AND ADJUSTABLE FOR HEIGHT--BURNED COAL OIL. IT WAS VERY POPULAR.

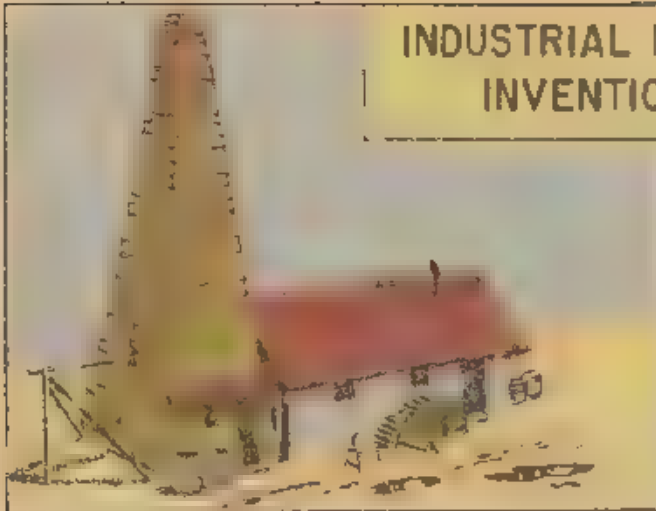


EARLIER THAN THE COAL-OIL LAMP BUT STILL IN USE WAS THE WHALE-OIL LAMP. IT HAD A NARROW BURNER TO CONSERVE OIL.

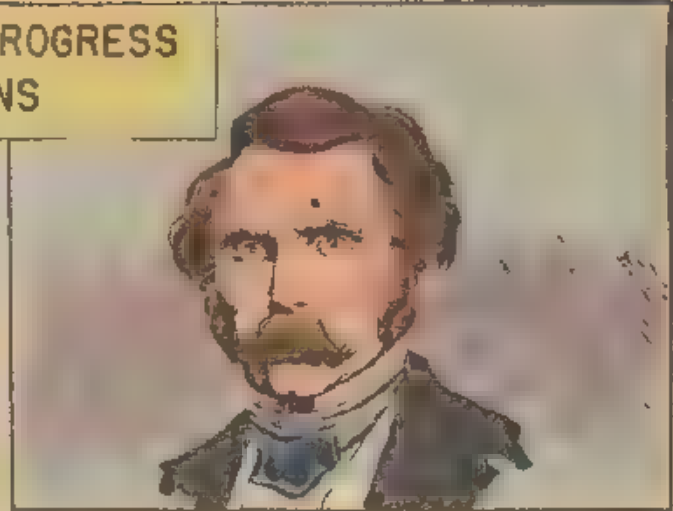


GAS LIGHTING WAS USED FOR THE WHITE HOUSE AND FOR THE HOMES OF THE WELL-TO-DO... JETS BURNED WITH FLAT FLAMES.

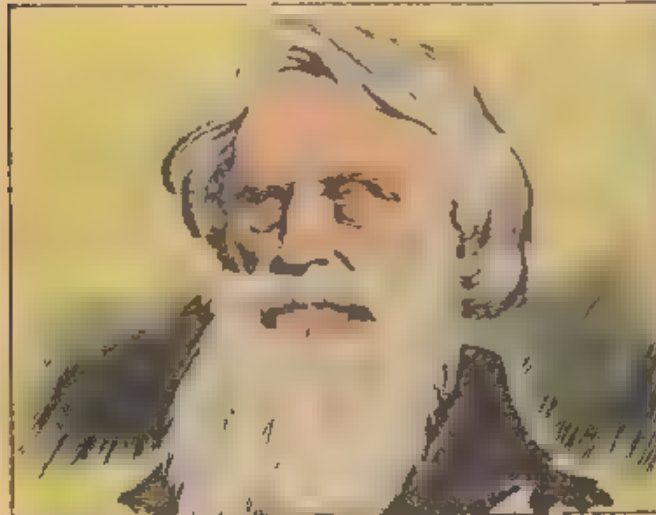
INDUSTRIAL PROGRESS INVENTIONS



ABOVE: THE FIRST OIL WELL WAS INVENTED BY EDWIN L. DRAKE BUT THEY WERE VERY FEW AND VERY RECENT IN LINCOLN'S DAY. BEFORE THAT, OIL WAS DISTILLED FROM SHALE.



ETHER, FOR SURGICAL ANAESTHESIA, WAS JUST COMING INTO USE. IT'S FIRST USE WAS FOURTEEN YEARS BEFORE THE CIVIL WAR. DR WILLIAM MORTON, AN AMERICAN DENTIST, IS RESPONSIBLE FOR THE GENERAL USE OF ETHER.



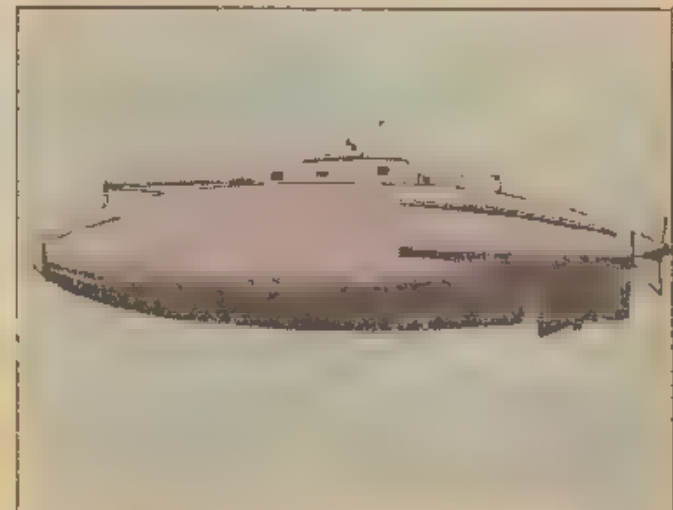
THE TELEGRAPH WAS A NEW WAY OF SENDING MESSAGES. IN LINCOLN'S DAY, MORSE INVENTED IT IN 1843.



AMERICAN COTTON SUPPLIED AN IMPORTANT, GROWING INDUSTRY. THE CIVIL WAR ALMOST STOPPED ITS PRODUCTION.

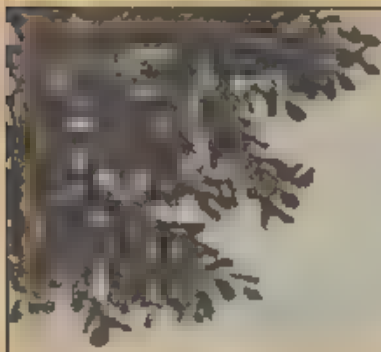


BASEBALL WAS INVENTED A QUARTER OF A CENTURY BEFORE LINCOLN BECAME PRESIDENT -AND WAS FIRST PLAYED IN NEW YORK.



A CONFEDERATE SUBMARINE WAS CAPTURED DURING THE WAR. IT WAS NEVER USED IN ACTUAL ATTACK, BUT AT LEAST IT WORKED!

TOWN HOUSES AND FEDERAL BUILDINGS



THE UNITED STATES CAPITOL BUILDING, WASHINGTON, D.C. WAS NOT YET FINISHED WHEN LINCOLN WAS FIRST INAUGURATED



THIS IS THE HOME BOUGHT AND FURNISHED BY LINCOLN IN SPRINGFIELD, ILLINOIS, IN 1856. IT WAS ENLARGED TO TWO STORIES. MRS. LINCOLN ENTERTAINED LAVISHLY HERE.



THIS COURTHOUSE AT METAMORA, WHERE LINCOLN PRACTICED LAW ON HIS "CIRCUIT," WAS TYPICAL OF THE TIMES.



THE CLOTIMES BUILDING IN NEW YORK CITY WAS A LANDMARK EVEN IN THE YEAR 1860 WHEN LINCOLN BECAME PRESIDENT.



FORD'S THEATER, NOW RESTORED AS FEDERAL PROPERTY, WHERE LINCOLN WAS SHOT, WAS THEN FLANKED BY A DRAB WOODEN BUILDING.

THE PRESIDENCY



THIS WAS THE MAN WHOM THE PEOPLE OF THE UNITED STATES HAD CHOSEN TO PILOT THE SHIP OF STATE THROUGH THE COMING HURRICANE OF POLITICAL --- AND PERHAPS MILITARY --- WARFARE!



JUST TWO WEEKS BEFORE THIS, IN MONTGOMERY, ALABAMA, JEFFERSON DAVIS HAD BEEN SWORN IN AS PRESIDENT OF THE CONFEDERATE STATES OF AMERICA --- UP TO NOW NUMBERING SIX



ON MARCH 5TH, LINCOLN GOT WORD THAT THE JN ON GARRISON AT FORT SUMTER IN CHARLESTON, S C , HAD ONLY A MONTH'S FOOD LEFT. ON MARCH 28TH, THE CABINET ADVISED THAT FOOD BE SENT.



BUT BEFORE THE FOOD AND SUPPLIES COULD REACH SUMTER, CONFEDERATE GUNS OPENED FIRE ON IT. FOR THIRTY-THREE HOURS THEY KEPT IT UP --- THROUGH STORM AND RAIN.



HOLDING OUT LONGER, WITHOUT FOOD, WITHOUT HELP, COULD HAVE DONE NO GOOD. WHEN OFFERED TERMS OF SURRENDER, THE COMMANDER, MAJOR ANDERSON, TOOK THEM --- AND MARCHED OUT WITH HONOR.



ON THE 5TH OF APRIL, 1861, PRESIDENT LINCOLN SENT OUT A CALL FOR SEVENTY-FIVE THOUSAND VOLUNTEERS TO PUT DOWN THE ARMED REBELLION OF THE SIX SOUTHERN STATES NAMED.



THE ANSWER FROM THE PEOPLE OF THE NORTHERN STATES WAS SWIFT AND ENTHUSIASTIC. URGED BY RELIGIOUS, SOCIAL AND POLITICAL LEADERS, YOUNG MEN RUSHED TO ENLIST.



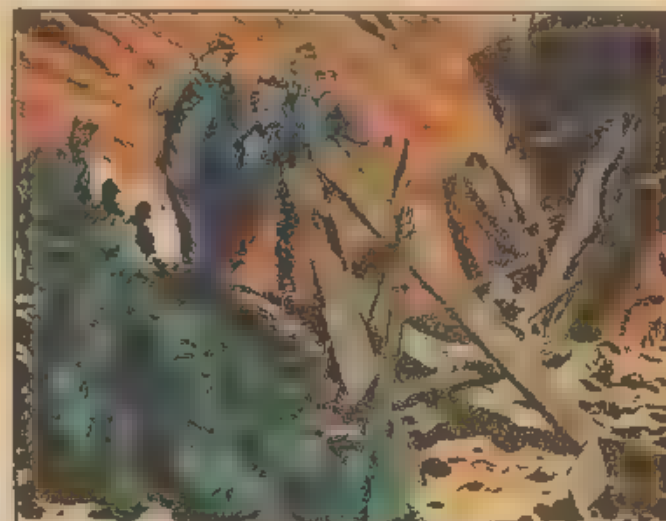
ON THE 17TH, VIRGINIA LEFT THE UNION --- AND THE NEXT DAY THE ARMS FACTORY AND FORT AT HARPER'S FERRY WAS CAPTURED.



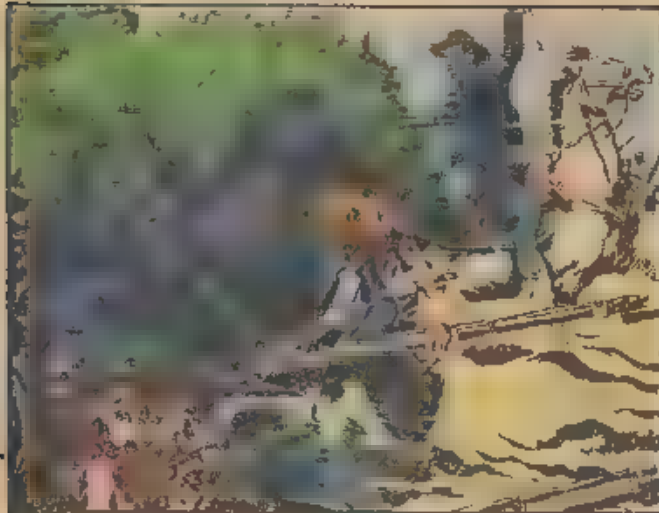
THE UNITED STATES NAVY YARD IN NORFOLK SEEMED LIKELY TO BE CAPTURED BY THE REBEL FORCES. SO THE COMMANDING OFFICER ORDERED \$30,000,000 WORTH OF WAR MATERIAL BLOWN UP!



COLONEL ROBERT E. LEE, AGAINST SLAVERY, AND AGAINST LEAVING THE UNION, COULD NOT BEAR TO FIGHT AGAINST HIS NATIVE VIRGINIA. SO HE RESIGNED FROM THE UNITED STATES ARMY.



FROM THE PANICKED ROUT AT BULL RUN UNTIL A BLOODY ANTIETAM A LITTLE OVER A YEAR LATER, THE UNION FORCES WERE DOGGED BY BAD LUCK, ALTHOUGH THERE WERE NO GREAT BATTLES.



IN OCTOBER OF THAT FIRST YEAR, GENERAL EDWARD (NED) BAKER, ONE OF LINCOLN'S DEAREST FRIENDS, LED A GALLANT CHARGE AGAINST HOPELESS ODDS, AT BALL'S BLUFF.



AT THE END OF THE DAY, LINCOLN WAS WITH GENERAL MCCLELLAN WHEN THE TELEGRAPH CLOCKED THE NAME OF GENERAL BAKER - KILLED IN ACTION! TEARS ROLLED DOWN LINCOLN'S FACE.



COME IT AS WELL AS THAT THEY WERE THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY COMPANIONS. (NED) HAD SMALL SONS WILLIE AND TAD, R. SHEPHERD NEITHER OF THEM WITH A DOLL DRESSED LIKE A ZOUAVE SOLDIER.



SLACK, THE ZOUAVE, HAD BEEN CONDEMNED TO DEATH BY HIS SMALL OWNERS--- SO LINCOLN WROTE THE DOLL SLACK WAS PARDONED BY ORDER OF THE PRESIDENT! EVERYBODY WAS HAPPY!



IN FEBRUARY OF THE NEXT YEAR WILLIE TOOK COLD AND BECAME VERY ILL. HIS FATHER TOOK EVERY CHANCE TO BE WITH HIM--- AND SO DID BOB TAFT, WILLIE'S BEST FRIEND.



A FEW DAYS LATER, WILLIE DIED. IT BROKE HIS MOTHER'S HEART, AND GRIEF WEIGHED ON HIS FATHER LIKE AN UNBEARABLE LOAD, HEAVIER BECAUSE SO MANY HAD LOST SOLDIER SONS.



MEANWHILE THE CIVIL WAR DRAGGED ON AT SEA AS WELL AS ON LAND. IN HAMPTON ROADS, THE UNION TORPET SHIPS TWO CANNON FOUGHT THE ARMORED CONFEDERATE MERRIMACK TO A DRAW.



A SECOND AND BLOODIER BATTLE OF BULL RUN WENT AGAINST THE UNION FORCES. ELEVEN THOUSAND UNION SOLDIERS WERE CAPTURED AT HARPER'S FERRY. THEN IN SEPTEMBER --



SAME ANTETAM? QUIET LITTLE ANTETAM CREEK FLOWED PAST A WHITE COUNTRY CHURCH, A CORN FIELD AND A PASTURE BEFORE THE BATTLE. NO SCENE COULD HAVE BEEN MORE PEACEFUL.



THEN, ALONG A THREE-MILE FRONT, BOYS IN BLUE AND BOYS IN GRAY WERE KILLING EACH OTHER, IN ONE OF THE MOST TERRIBLE BATTLES OF THE WAR. EACH SIDE LOST TWELVE THOUSAND.



ON THE FIRST OF JANUARY, 1863 THE PRESIDENT ORDERED THE FREEING, OR EMANCIPATION, OF ALL SLAVES IN THE REBEL STATES --- SO AS TO SERVE JUSTICE AND SHORTEN THE WAR



THE NORTHERN STATES GREETED THIS ORDER WITH WILD JOY! CANNON FIRED SALUTES, CROWDS MARCHED SINGING WITH BRASS BANDS, NEGROES HELD ALL NIGHT PRAYER AND PRAISE MEETINGS



IN APRIL OF 1863 LINCOLN CAME OUT TO REVIEW THE GREAT ARMY OF THE POTOMAC, ABOUT 30,000 MEN. BUT FIRST HE VISITED THE HOSPITAL TENTS, SPEAKING COMFORT TO EACH SUFFERER



WITH GENERAL HOOKER, LINCOLN WATCHED FROM THE REVIEWING STAND AS THE GREATEST BODY OF CAVALRY IN THE WORLD TRAMPED PAST, BANNERS WHIPPING, OFFICERS SABERS AT SALUTE



THE AWESOME INSPIRING SIGHT HAD ITS COMICAL INTERLUPT ON. LITTLE TAD LINCOLN, UNIFORMED AS AN ORDERLY, CAME DASHING PAST THE SLOW MOVING RANKS, SPLASHING THEM WITH MUD.



BACK AT THE WHITE HOUSE, LINCOLN REVIEWED A FARDIFFERENT GROUP -- MEN AND WOMEN WHO HAD BEEN WAITING TO SEE HIM OR TO ASK HIM FOR HELP -- AT NOON, FOUR TIMES A WEEK



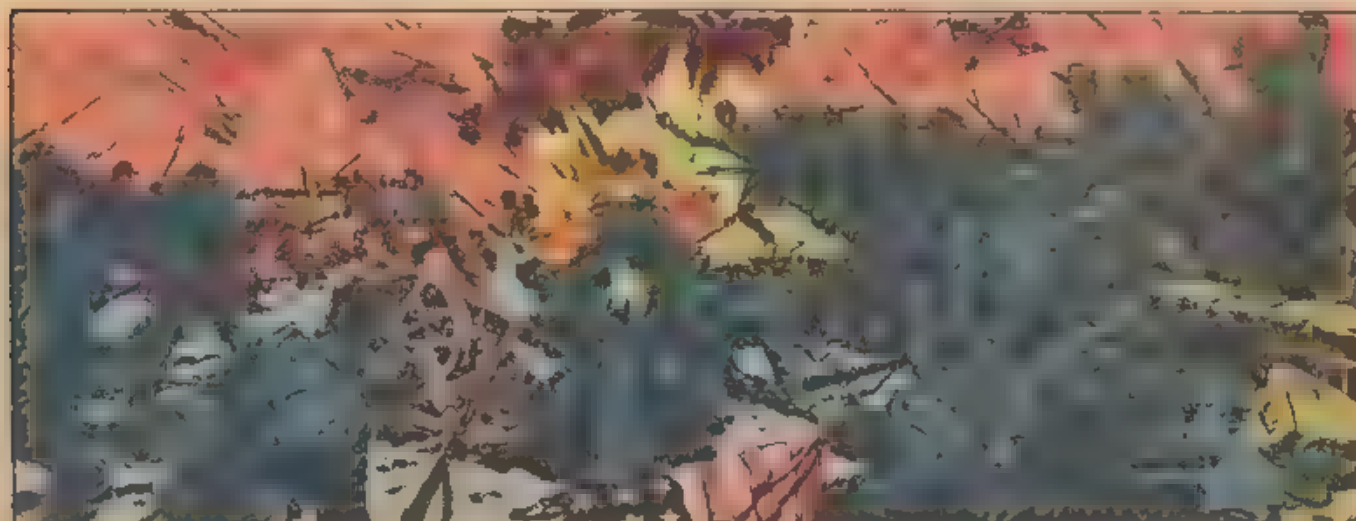
LITTLE TAD LINCOLN HAD THE FREE RUN OF HIS FATHER'S OFFICE - AND SOMETIMES SHOCKED THE PRESIDENT'S VISITORS - LIKE THE BOSTON LADIES WHO HAD NEVER SEEN GOATS HITCHED TO A CHAIR!



LINCOLN LOVED ALL CHILDREN---AND NO CHILD EVER FELT STRANGE IN THAT HOMELY MAN'S ARMS. IN FACT, ONE SMALL MISS TOLD HER FATHER THAT THE PRESIDENT WASN'T UGLY BUT "BEAUTIFUL!"



ON THE FIELD NEAR GETTYSBURG, THAT THIRD OF JULY, THE ONLY BEAUTY WAS THE SHINING COURAGE OF GENERAL POKETT AND HIS GRAY SOLDIERS, CHARGING A MILE THROUGH SHOT AND SHELL.



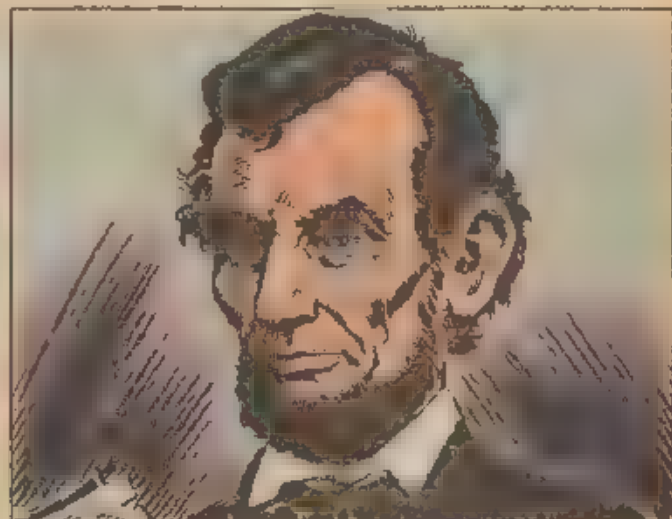
THEY STORMED THE STONE WALLS---WHAT WERE LEFT OF THEM WHEN THEY GOT THERE RAISED THEIR BATTLE FLAGS OVER LINCOLN POSITIONS---AND THEN, OUTNUMBERED, WERE DRIVEN BACK AGAIN!



THE "BOYS IN BLUE" LOST 23,000 MEN IN THOSE AWFUL THREE DAYS AT GETTYSBURG --- AND THE MEN IN GRAY LOST 28,000, KILLED, WOUNDED OR MISSING! JEE'S ARMY RETREATED, AT LAST!



THE FOLLOWING NOVEMBER 9TH LINCOLN RE-ELECTED PRESIDENT GAVE AT THAT BATTLEFIELD HIS FAMOUS GETTYSBURG ADDRESS. BEFORE HIS MIND'S EYE, AS HE SPOKE, HE SAW THOSE BOYS---



WHO "HERE GAVE THE LAST FULL MEASURE OF DEVOTION" AND HE ADDED "THAT THE NATION SHALL, UNDER GOD, HAVE A NEW BIRTH OF FREEDOM, AND THAT GOVERNMENT OF THE PEOPLE, BY THE PEOPLE, FOR THE PEOPLE, SHALL NOT PERISH FROM THE EARTH."



ONE HUMAN LIFE WAS AT RISK OF PRICELESS VALUE TO LINCOLN. WHEN SOMEBODY WAKED HIM AT NIGHT, TELLING OF A BOY TO BE SHOT FOR SLEEPING ON SENTRY DUTY, LINCOLN WROTE A NOTE



--- AND THEN DRESSED AND CARRIED THE MESSAGE HIMSELF TO THE WAR DEPARTMENT -- TO MAKE SURE THAT THE BOY WOULD NOT BE SHOT; HE DID NOT BELIEVE SHOOTING "WOULD MAKE ANY MAN BETTER!"



OF HIS OWN LIFE, LINCOLN WAS FAR LESS CAREFUL. ONE NIGHT AS HE WAS RIDING ALONE TOWARDS THE GROUNDS OF THE SOLDIER'S HOME, A WOULD BE KILLER SENT A BULLET THROUGH HIS FAT



TO MAKE A POOR TARGET FOR A SECOND SHOT, ABE LINCOLN KICKED HIS HORSE INTO A GALLOP. HIS BULLET PERCEDED FAT ROLLED SOMEWHERE BEHIND HIM. NO SECOND SHOT FOLLOWED HOWEVER



WHEN NICHOLS, THE GATE GUARD RAN OUT, THE PRESIDENT PRETENDED AT FIRST THAT HIS HORSE HAD SIMPLY RUN AWAY WITH HIM. BUT NICHOLS HAD HEARD THE SHOT AND GUESSED THE TRUTH,



THE FOLLOWING DAY WHEN HE WAS RETURNED AND THE BULLET HOLE POINTED AT HIM, THE PRESIDENT TRIED TO LAUGH IT OFF. BUT THIS WAS THE SECON TIME HE'D BEEN SHOT AT



IN NOVEMBER, GENERAL SHERMAN, AFTER BURNING A PORTION OF THE CITY OF ATLANTA, BEGAN HIS FAMOUS MARCH TO THE SEA CUTTING A PATH OF DESTRUCTION FORTY MILES WIDE



SHERMAN GAVE PERSONAL ATTENTION TO DESTROYING NEARLY THREE HUNDRED MILES OF RAILROAD, BENDING RED-HOT RAILS AROUND TREES. "WAR IS CRUEL," HE SAID, "AND YOU CANNOT REFINE IT!"



BY THIS TIME LINCOLN HAD FOUND TWO OFFICERS HE COULD WORK CLOSELY WITH---SHERMAN AND LT GENERAL GRANT. MUCH AS HE HATED WAR, HE KNEW IT MUST BE PUSHED HARD TO END IT.



THE GRIM YEAR OF 1864 ENDED, AND ON NEW YEAR'S DAY 1865, THE DIPLOMATS OF FOREIGN COUNTRIES PRESSED FORWARD TO GREET THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES. UNIFORMS GLEAMED!



AND OUTSIDE THE WHITE HOUSE STOOD MANY NEGROES WAITING AND WATCHING AND LONGING FOR A GLIMPSE OF THE GREAT MAN WHO HAD TAKEN THEIR PART AND ORDERED THE SLAVES FREED.



AT LAST, TO THEIR SURPRISE AND WONDER, THEY WERE INVITED IN. WHILE THE GLITTERING DIPLOMATS STOOD ASIDE, DARK HANDS GRIPPED PRESIDENT LINCOLN'S, AND VOICES MURMURED BLESSINGS.



ON THE THIRTY-FIRST OF JANUARY TWO THIRDS OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES VOTED TO OUTLAW SLAVERY BY CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT AND CHEERING FOLLOWED



THREE BATTERIES OF CANNON BELLOWED A HUNDRED GUN SALUTE--- TO THE NEW AMENDMENT, AND TO THE GREAT-HEARTED PRESIDENT WHO HAD SEEN IT THROUGH



ON MARCH 4TH 1865, LINCOLN READ HIS SECOND INAUGURAL ADDRESS " WITH MALICE TOWARD NONE, WITH CHARITY FOR ALL, WITH FIRMNESS IN THE RIGHT AS GOD GIVES US TO SEE "



LATE IN MARCH THE WAR WAS SO NEARLY TO AN END THE DEAD AND WOUNDED HAD NOT YET BEEN REMOVED FROM THE PETERBURG BATTLEFIELD WHEN LINCOLN ARRIVED.



WORN AND SADDENED BY THE WAR'S COUNTLESS MISERIES, LINCOLN RODE PAST THE ROWS AND HEAPS OF MEN IN BLUE AND MEN IN GRAY -- AS IF HE FELT THAT EACH OF THESE BOYS WERE HIS OWN KIN



IN THE HOSPITAL TENTS AT CITY POINT LINCOLN BRUSHED ASIDE THE ARMY SURGEON'S PROTESTS AND ENTERED THE TENTS OF THE SICK CONFEDERATE PRISONERS.



"THAT'S JUST WHERE I WANT TO GO," HE REPLIED AND HE WENT DOWN THE LONG ROWS OF HOSPITAL COTS, STOPPING AT EACH TO TAKE THE HAND OF A SUFFERING "ENEMY" SOLDIER.



ALMOST HUMBLY, LINCOLN OFFERED HIS HAND TO A SOUTHERN OFFICER WHO HAD FOUGHT THE NORTH FOR FOUR YEARS. AND THE COLONEL GRIPPED IT IN HIS OWN.



AFTER VISITING MOST OF THE FIFTY THOUSAND PATIENTS IN THE HOSPITAL TENTS, LINCOLN RAN OUT OF THEM. AS HE RUBBED HIS ARM, LAMED BY HANDSHAKING, HE MADE A JOKE OF IT.



---AND SEIZED AN AXE TO MAKE BIG CHIPS FLY FROM A LOG OF FIREWOOD, PROVING THAT HIS MUSCLES WERE STILL STRONG. ACTUALLY HE WAS THIRTY-FIVE POUNDS UNDERWEIGHT.



AS FURTHER PROOF HE REPEATED HIS TRYING TO STUNT OF RAISING THE AXE BY THE END OF THE HANDLE--STRAIGHT OUT--AND HOLDING IT STEADY! A TRICK FEW MEN CAN DO!



ON APRIL THIRD THE CONFEDERATE CAPITAL RICHMOND, VA. SURRENDERED. SHORTLY AFTERWARDS, PRESIDENT LINCOLN RODE THROUGH THE SMOULDERING CITY, REGARDLESS OF RISK.



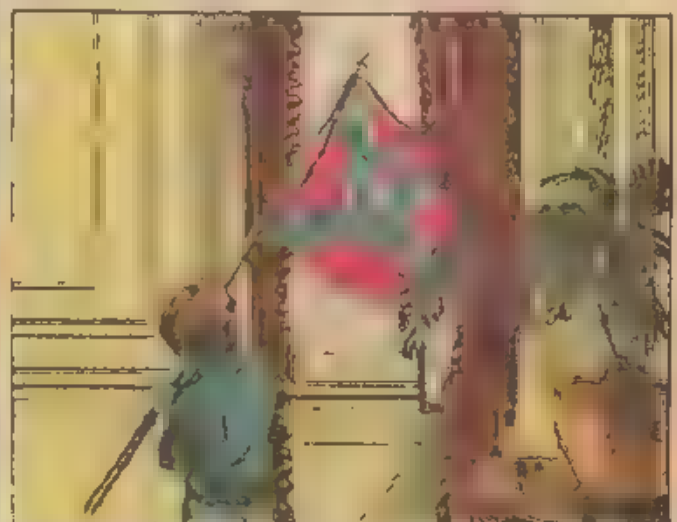
ON PALM SUNDAY, APRIL NINTH, THE SOUTH'S GREAT GENERAL, ROBERT E. LEE, SURRENDERED TO GENERAL GRANT AT APPOMATTOX. THIS PRACTICALLY ENDED THE WAR.



THE CONFEDERATE RANKS WERE SHAKEN --- HEARTBROKEN --- BY THE SUDDEN END TO THE REHERSAL STRUGGLE. SOME SORBED AS THEY LAID TORN BATTLE FLAGS ON STACKED RIFLES.



IN FRONT OF THE WHITE HOUSE WAVE AFTER WAVE OF CHEERS FROM A JOYFUL CROWD ROSE ABOVE THE BLARING OF A BRASS BAND AND THE BOOM OF CANNON SALUTES.



AND A NOTE OF COMEDY WAS SUPPLIED BY MR. LITTLE TAD LINCOLN WITH A CONFEDERATE FLAG HE RAN UP AND ABOUT THE WHITE HOUSE LEADING HIS OWN CHEERING SECTION.



AND A FEW MINUTES AFTER THE PRESIDENT
HAD READ THE SPEECH, HE WAS
WALKING BY ASKING THE BRASS BAND TO
PLAY "DIXIE".



THE NEXT NIGHT, APRIL EIGHTEEN, THE PRESIDENT
READ A SPEECH EMPHASIZING THE END OF THE CIVIL
WAR. NOT IN SORROW, BUT IN GLADNESS OF HEART,
A NATIONAL THANKSGIVING.



IN THE LISTENING CROWD STOOD JOHN WILKES BOOTH,
SELF-CENTERED YOUNG PLAY ACTOR. HIS HEART
BURNED WITH BITTER HATE. A HATE THAT WOULD
END IN THE MURDER OF THE PRESIDENT.



A BIT LATER, LINCOLN, SEATED WITH HIS WIFE AND A
FEW FRIENDS IN THE RED ROOM, REMARKED SOLEMNLY,
"IT SEEMS STRANGE HOW MUCH THERE IS IN THE BIBLE
ABOUT DREAMS!"



"I HADN'T THE OTHER NIGHT, HE WENT ON, WHICH
HAS HAUNTED ME EVER SINCE. AFTER IT OCCURRED,
I OPENED THE BIBLE. A DREAM OR A VISION
WHEREVER I LOOKED."



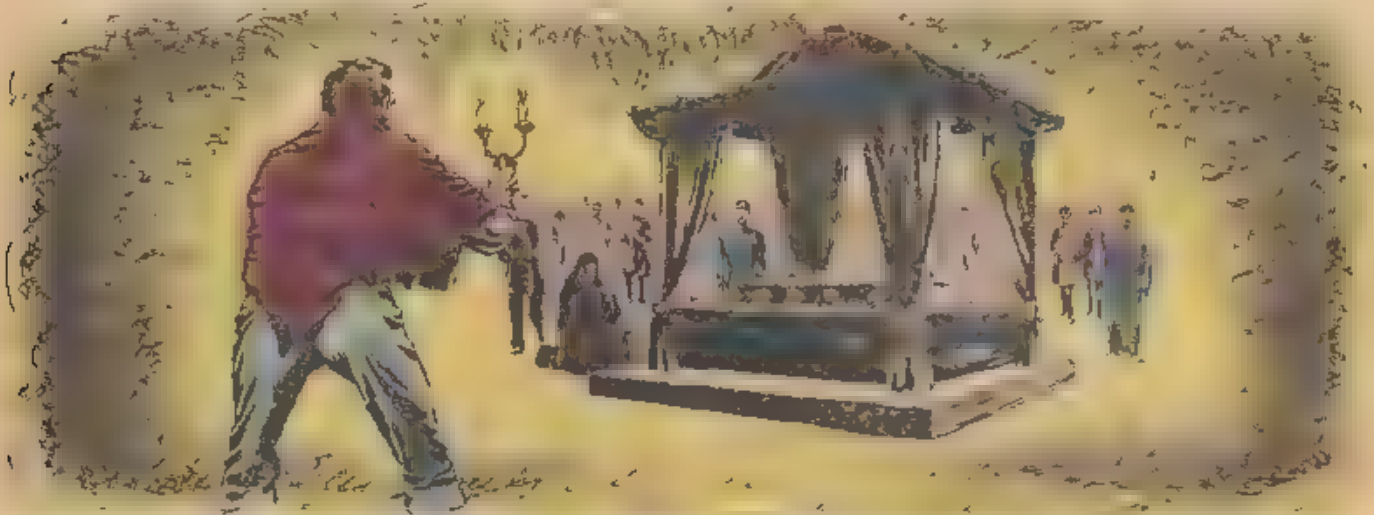
THE PRESIDENT, SEEING THAT HIS WORDS FRIGHTENED
HIS WIFE, WOULD HAVE STOPPED THERE. BUT SHE
URGED HIM ON. HE SAID IN HIS DREAM HE HEARD
"SURRENDER, SURRENDER, AND GOT UP."



I LEFT MY BED AND WANDERED DOWNSTAIRS "HE WENT ON "BUT THE MOURNERS WERE INVISIBLE" WHERE WERE ALL THE PEOPLE WHO WERE GRIEVING AS IF THEIR HEARTS WOULD BREAK?"



"I WENT FROM ROOM TO ROOM NO LIVING PERSON WAS IN SIGHT", I WAS PUZZLED AND AFRAID "I KEPT ON UNTIL I ARRIVED IN THE EAST ROOM THERE I MET WITH "



"---A SICKENING SURPRISE" BEFORE ME WAS A CATAFALQUE, ON WHICH RESTED A CORPSE IN FUNERAL VESTMENTS AROUND IT WERE STATIONED SOLDIERS AND THERE WAS A THROG OF PEOPLE, SOME GAZING AT THE CORPSE, WHOSE FACE WAS COVERED OTHERS WEEPING PITFULLY



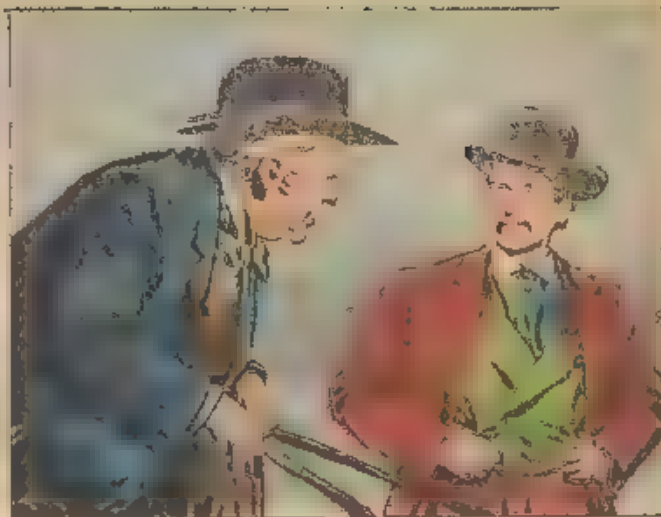
"WHO IS DEAD IN THE WHITE HOUSE?" DEMANDED OF ONE OF THE SOLDIERS "THE PRESIDENT," WAS HIS ANSWER "HE WAS KILLED BY AN ASSASSIN"



AS THE MEANING OF THIS DREAM SANK IN, LINCOLN'S COMPANIONS EXPRESSED THE ALARM THEY BEGGED THE PRESIDENT NOT TO GO OUT ANY MORE AT NIGHT BUT LINCOLN LAUGHED IT OFF,



ABOUT 10:15 P.M. ON APRIL FOURTEENTH, JAMES FORD, OF FORD THEATER, WAS DRIVING BACK THERE WITH SOME PLANS TO DECORATE THE PRESIDENT'S BOX. WHEN HE SAW BOOTH.



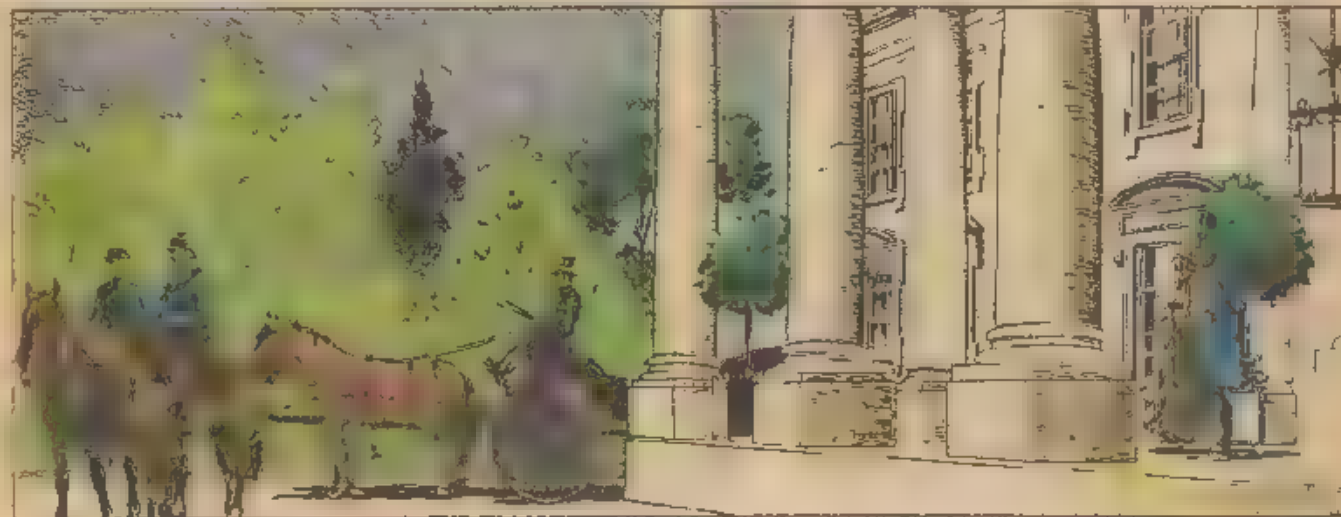
HE TOLD BOOTH THAT THE LINCOLNS AND GENERAL GHANT EXPECTED TO ATTEND THE EVENING PERFORMANCE, AND HOPE BOOTH COULD COME. BOOTH THE ASSASSIN KEPT OUTWARDLY CALM.



HIS PULSE MUST HAVE BEEN HAMMERING HARD BUT HE TURNED NONCHALANTLY AWAY SAYING THAT HE WOULD TRY TO ATTEND. THIS WAS THE CHANCE HE HAD BEEN WAITING FOR.



HE WENT TO HIS ROOM AT THE NATIONAL HOTEL AND DRESSED FOR THIS ROLE WHICH WOULD MAKE HIM THE MOST NOTORIOUS ACTOR IN AMERICA--ALIVE OR DEAD. HE WORE NEW SPURS.



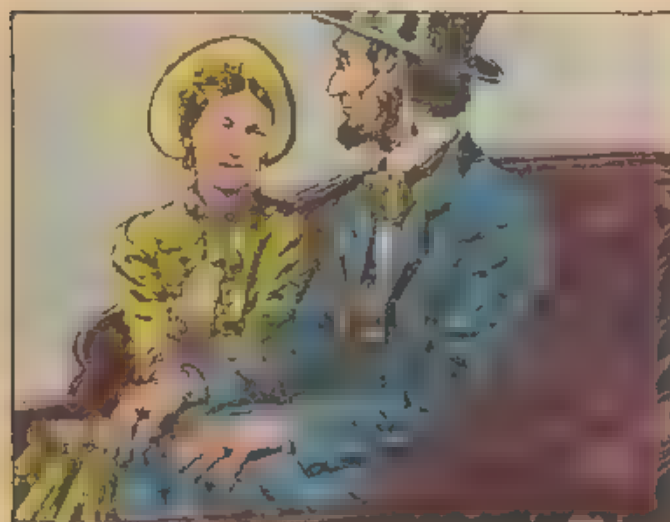
AT ABOUT FIVE THAT AFTERNOON THE PRESIDENT AND MRS. LINCOLN CAME OUT TO THE R BAROUCHE FOR A DRIVE IN THE FRESH SPRING AIR. THEY WOULD BE PIDDING ALONE, WITH ONLY A CAVALRY GUARD.



LINCOLN WAS IN A HAPPY MOOD, LIFTING HIS HAT TO THOSE WHO WAVED AT HIM FROM THE SIDEWALKS. HE LOOKED AS IF A GREAT LOAD HAD BEEN TAKEN OFF HIM.



HE AND MRS. LINCOLN WERE LEAVING THE GALLERY, WHICH HAD CALLED IT THE WHOLE CITY. THEY TALKED OF THEIR FUTURE POLITICAL AND PRIVATE AND THEY LAUGHED A LOT.



ONCE LINCOLN REMARKED, "NEVER FELT SO HAPPY IN MY LIFE." STRUCK BY A STARTLING THOUGHT, SHE CRIED, "YOU WERE FEELING JUST SO BEFORE OUR LITTLE BOY DIED."



A LITTLE WHILE LATER, WHEN HE WAS OFF HIS NERVOUS MAKE-UP, HE WENT TO THE BACK OF THE THEATRE, AND A LADY IN A SPANGLED DRESS PUT HIS MOUNT IN THE STABLE.



FORNATOR KNOWING EVERYBODY BACKSTAGE HE HAD NO TROUBLE GETTING UP TO THE DARK BALCONY UNDER AND MAKING HIS WAY TO THE PRESIDENT'S BOX.



THERE HE TOOK A LITTLE GLIMPSE AND BEHOLD A HOLE IN THE PANEL OF THE DOOR WHICH OPENED IN TO THE BOX. A PEEP HOLE WHICH HE ENLARGED WITH A PUNCH.



THE TIME WAS NOW 8.30 P.M. AND THE PLAY HAD ALREADY BEGUN--- WHEN THE PRESIDENT'S PARTY ARRIVED! THE ORCHESTRA STRUCK UP, "HAIL TO THE CHIEF!" THE DRESS CIRCLE ROSE...



BETWEEN ACTS ONE AND TWO, THE PRESIDENT HELD MRS. LINCOLN'S HAND, JUST AS HIS GUEST, YOUNG MAJOR RATHBONE, HELD THE HAND OF HIS FIANCÉE, CLARA HARRIS.



A LITTLE BEFORE TEN O'CLOCK, LINCOLN SAID HE FELT A CHILL AND HE PUT ON A COAT. IT WAS JUST AT THE TIME BOOTH, THE ASSASSIN, ENTERED THE BACKSTAGE.



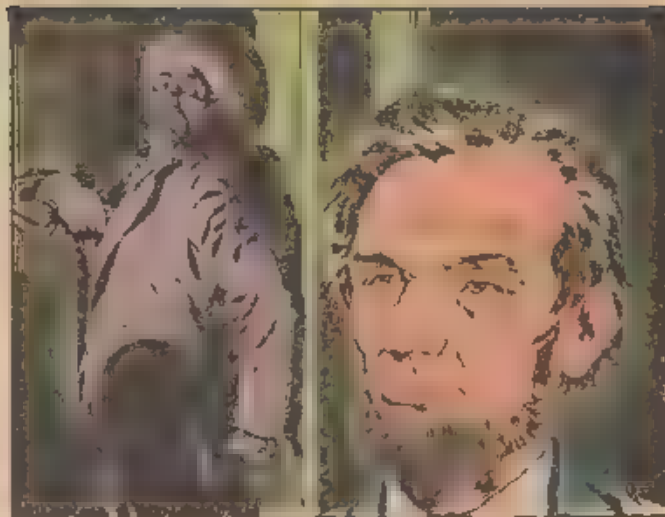
SOME MINUTES AFTER TEN, BOOTH ENTERED FROM THE DRESS CIRCLE INTO THE LITTLE CORRIDOR BETWEEN THE PRESIDENT'S BOX AND THE DOOR. HE HAD TIMED HIS ENTRANCE EXACTLY.



HE PICKED UP FROM A DARK CORNER A WOODEN BAR HE HAD PREPARED AND FITTED IT TIGHT AGAINST THE DOOR BEHIND HIM. THE OTHER END HE WEDGED INTO AN CRENELLATION IN THE WALL.



PEERING THROUGH THE PEEP HOLE HE HAD BORED IN THE DOOR OF THE PRESIDENTAL BOX, THE MURDERER COULD SEE THE BACK OF LINCOLN'S HEAD AS HE WATCHED THE PLAY.



SILENTLY HE OPENED THE DOOR AND, STEPPED IN HIS WEAPON COMING FIRST, A MAN WHO WAS AWARE OF HIS ENTRANCE. BOOTH MOVED ALONG THE WALL TO GET A CLEAR SHOT.



THE DEADLY LITTLE DERRINGER SPAT OUT ITS SINGLE BULLET - WITH A NOISE LIKE A LOUD HAND CLAP. EVEN THOSE IN THE BOX HARDLY NOTICED THE SOUND.



BUT BOOTH'S LUNGE TOWARD THE LEDGE OF THE BOX WAS BLOCKED BY MAJOR RATHBONE. IN THE MURDERER'S HAND A KNIFE FLASHED, DRIVING DEEP INTO RATHBONE'S ARM.



EVADING RATHBONE'S GOOD RIGHT ARM, BOOTH SAUNG HIMSELF OVER THE LEDGE OF THE BOX, TO DROP TO THE STAGE BELOW. ONE OF HIS NEW SPURS TANGLED ITSELF IN THE DRAPED FLAG.



WITH A CRY OF "REVENGE FOR THE SOUTH!" HE DROPPED, TEARING THE FLAG, AND LANDING AWKWARDLY. HIS ANKLE SNAPPED. THAT ALL HAD HAPPENED TOO FAST FOR PEOPLE TO UNDERSTAND.



BOOTH SCRAMBLED UP, AND PASSED THE PETRIFIED ACTOR HARRY HAWKES AT A HOBBLING RUN. . . MAJOR STEWART CLIMBED OUT OF THE ORCHESTRA, SHOUTING, "STOP THAT MAN!"



MAJOR RATHBONE, BLEEDING BADLY, GOT LOOSE THE BAR WHICH HELD THE CORRIDOR DOOR SHUT. HE YELLED TO THE JAMMING CROWD OUTSIDE TO LET NO ONE BUT A DOCTOR THROUGH.



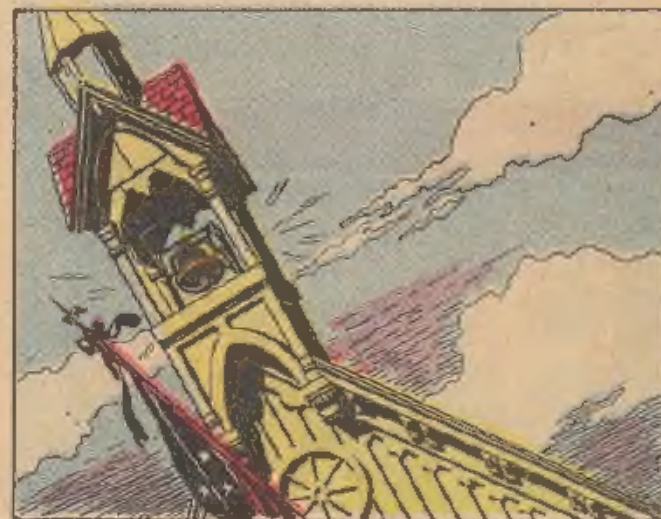
IN A FEW MOMENTS, A YOUNG ARMY SURGEON, DR. CHARLES LEALE, ENTERED THE BOX. . . MRS. LINCOLN SOBBED HYSTERICALLY, "OH, DOCTOR, IS HE DEAD? OH, MY DEAR HUSBAND!"



LEALE HAD THE PRESIDENT LAID FLAT ON THE FLOOR. . . HE FOUND THE BULLET WOUND IN THE BACK OF THE HEAD. . . LOOKING UP, HE SAID, "HIS WOUND IS MORTAL!"



AND BACK IN ILLINOIS, THEY BROUGHT THE SAD NEWS TO THE PRESIDENT'S STEP-MOTHER, WHO SAID, "I KNEW WHEN HE WENT. . . HE WOULD NEVER COME BACK ALIVE!"



NEXT DAY---THE DAY BEFORE EASTER---BELLS IN EVERY CITY OF THE NORTH BEGAN TOLLING THE DEATH OF ABRAHAM LINCOLN! NOW, AS STANTON SAID, HE "BELONGED TO THE AGES!" ---

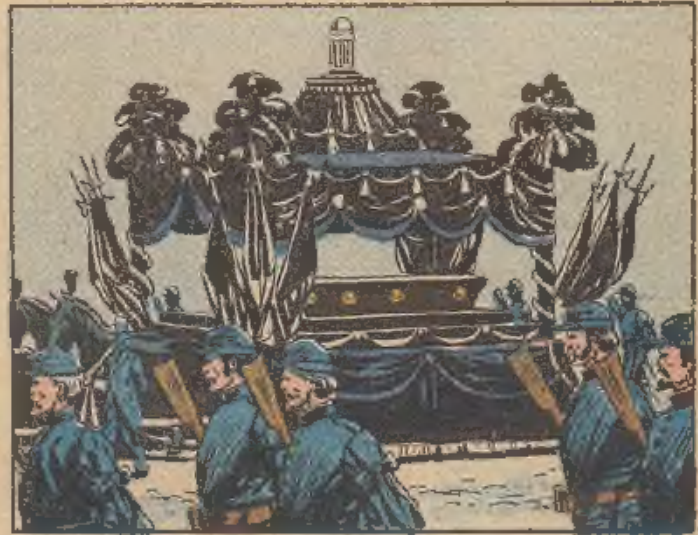
LINCOLN'S LAST JOURNEY



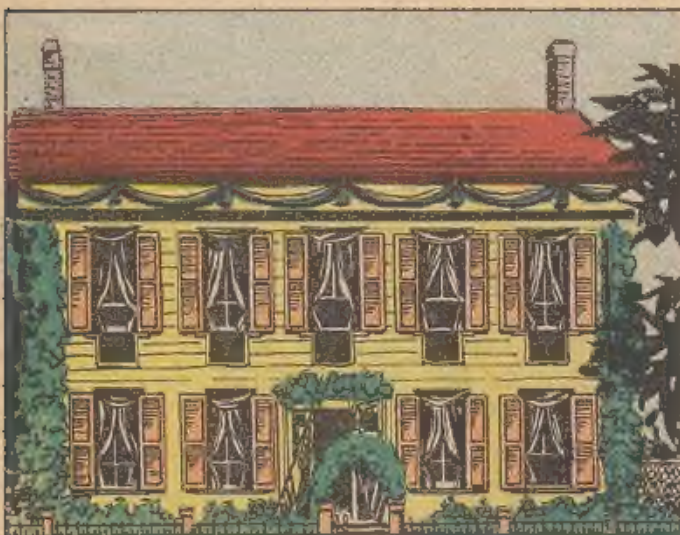
LINCOLN'S LAST JOURNEY BEGAN WHEN HE WAS CARRIED, DYING, FROM FORD'S THEATER TO A PRIVATE HOUSE ACROSS THE STREET



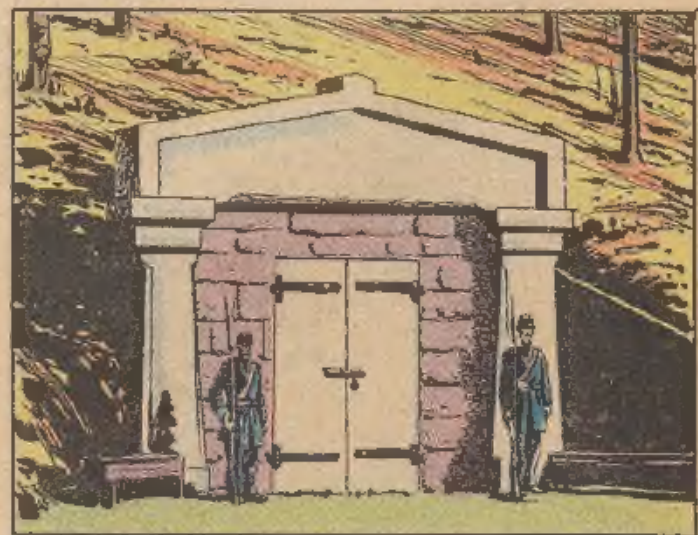
WHILE THE NATION MOURED, THE MARTYRED PRESIDENT LAY IN STATE IN THE EAST ROOM OF THE WHITE HOUSE--- AS HE HAD DREAMED?



BLACK HORSES WITH BLACK PLUMES DREW THE CASKET IN SOLEMN PROCESSION THROUGH THE STREETS WHILE MEN WEPT.



SLOWLY HIS FUNERAL TRAIN MOVED ACROSS THE STATES. BRIEFLY HE LAY IN HIS SPRINGFIELD HOME, WHERE OLD FRIENDS MOURED.



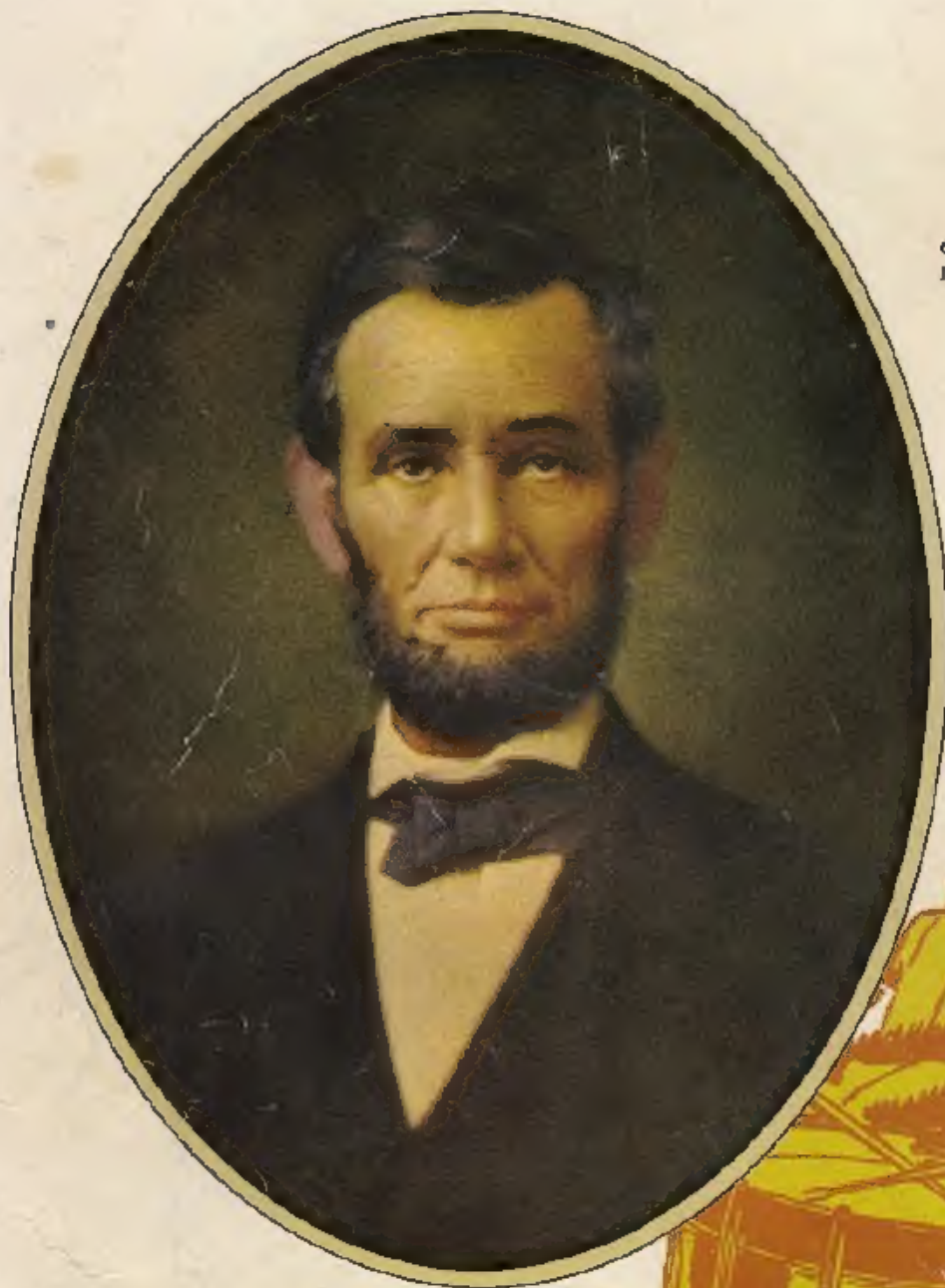
AT LAST, THE REMAINS OF AMERICA'S BEST-LOVED PRESIDENT CAME TO REST IN A SIMPLE VAULT AT SPRINGFIELD.



IN WORDS SO FEW...



The broken metal of war lies rusting quietly on the earthen carpet at Gettysburg. It is November 19, 1863. A few months ago, the greatest battle of the Civil War was fought here. Its dead have been laid to rest. A soft rain is falling this day and the people have gathered to hear their leader speak to them from a crude wooden platform erected on the battlefield. The leader sits and listens with great admiration as the main speaker delivers a two-hour oration. But there is despair in his heart also, for his own speech is but a few sentences in length. He wonders whether so few words can express to his people what he must tell them — that their sons have *not* died uselessly here. Now the great orator has finished his beautiful speech. The applause is thunderous. The leader gets up and walks to the speaker's station. One thought keeps panicking him: How long will such a puny speech live in the thoughts of his countrymen? Nevertheless, he begins: *"Fourscore and seven years ago . . ."*



Original by
Forbes Litho

Abraham Lincoln

From a
photograph
taken in 1864

